



# HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT OF THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

2009



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THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY  
**THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY**  
ADYAR, CHENNAI 600 020, INDIA

HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FOURTH  
ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT OF  
THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

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Printed at the Vasanta Press  
The Theosophical Society  
Adyar, Chennai 600 020, India

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# Presidential Address

To the 134rd Annual Convention of the Theosophical Society  
Adyar, 26 December 2009

It gives me much joy to welcome all of you, and I am sure that many in the Theosophical compound here join me in doing so. It is a fine opportunity for members to come to Adyar and bathe in the atmosphere created by the great Theosophists who have lived in the beauty and peace which reign here. The Convention attracts many people, and while we cannot manage to give all the conveniences that some may enjoy at home, still this place has a special beauty which is of value to all who come. I greet you with the wish that we shall work together in a way which is not contrary to what the Elder Brethren desire. Will you please rise.

**May those who are the embodiments of Love Immortal bless with their help and guidance this Society, founded to be a channel for their work. May They inspire it with their Wisdom, strengthen it with their Power, and energize it with their Activity. (Please be seated.)**

We all have and continue to have a valuable role to play in the advancement of humanity. We are meant to reach a stage where all the desires and pulls which have predominated up to this stage are no more at work. This can be the new age. There are quite a few people nowadays who speak of the New Age, but most of those who do so are full of turmoil, not of the deep transformation that humanity will undergo when a sufficient number of the people who compose it have left behind the past. A new life must be started as real human beings — not as part human and part brutal people such as we are.

As we must be ready to move into the future, let us consider what characteristics

we must acquire. As H. P. Blavatsky wrote, people who aspire to the higher life must not be characterized by incompetency and irresponsible chatter. Unfortunately most human beings are still at this stage of chatter, if not incompetency. Our concept of what a human being should be is perhaps low and provides an incorrect picture of what might be. Those who do not understand indulge in 'ignorance, appeals to passion, the exaltation of fanaticism as devotion, and of credulity as faith'.

To use Dr Besant's own words: 'There is a danger in every society which has existed long enough to become what it was not intended to be and follow the

world in its follies and useless thought.' We have to be different and not be carried away by what happens in the world because our task is different; our way of life must be pure and an unselfish, disinterested one. In other words, we need to be real Theosophists, and not merely members of the Theosophical Society.

There are many who know how to be only members of the Society. It is somewhat like being a member of many other good societies. Such people feel satisfied when they have given their time or part of their time to the service of others. This is of course laudable, and it is right for those who do not know what else they can do, but those who need to carry on the work of the Society by taking on the responsibility are the ones who are really moving on — towards a new era. So what must be done in the case of people who have a higher potential?

All of us share the same nature, but only in some has it flowered. So these people have a special duty; they have, as Annie Besant said, the distinguishing role of expelling ignorance rather than trying to destroy its forms one by one. There are innumerable evils which are apparent in modern society: 'instead of chopping off the heads of weeds, leaving the roots to send up perpetually new off-shoots', Theosophy must help us to destroy the very roots which create the next harvest. We must belong to the people who set themselves to free the world of its problems. Evil actions take their roots from evil thinking and Theosophy deals with this problem by strengthening our

wisdom and understanding the subject. Therefore we have the duty to know the essentials of Theosophy.

Dr Annie Besant said:

Theosophy, as it enlightens the minds of the thoughtful by unveiling to them the hidden causes of sorrow, as it preaches to all the simple and sublime doctrines of brotherhood, rebirth and causation, is doing the harder and more thankless work of removing the causes of hunger and distress, thus stopping the spring whence rushes the stream of evils that afflict society.

The work of the Society is not so much the feeding of the hungry or relieving distress little by little, but of shedding the light of truth and knowledge of all this. It shows the scientific basis — which means the logical basis — of moral precepts and answers many questions. For instance, if we know, not merely discuss and talk about, the knowledge which purifies and illuminates the gap which exists between the lower and higher natures of man, a great deal is accomplished.

This rationale for illuminating the lower impulses and supporting the higher aspirations within us goes on until the lower is completely eliminated. Enlightenment is difficult to achieve, but even at this level, we can begin by helping others to come to greater understanding. This is the work we have to do; while we are helping people out of their difficulties when we can, we must make our own consciousness clearer and more capable of seeing the truth.

HPB gave away the little money she had to help a poor woman in distress, who thought that she could not travel to the new continent as she was planning to do. This action was wonderful, but this was

by no means all of the real gift that HPB gave to the world. That gift was wisdom, the understanding of what we have to leave behind and what we have to work towards.

\* \* \*

The Indian Section continues to have the largest membership, which has increased from 12,418 to 12,698 during the past year. It has been very active throughout the year, not only at its headquarters in Varanasi, but also through its numerous Federations and Lodges around the country. The 118th Indian Section Convention was inaugurated on 27 December 2008 at Adyar by the International President. It was presided over by Dr Kannan, National Lecturer. On 29 December 2008, a symposium on 'Compassion is the Function of Wisdom' was held, and presided over by Prof. C. A. Shinde, National Lecturer.

The North India Study Camp was held at Varanasi from 15 to 19 October 2008 and was directed by Mrs Radha Burnier, International President, with the help of Dr N. C. Ramanujachary, Director of Studies, and Bro. P. K. Jayaswal, National Lecturer. This event was attended by 141 members. A programme of Indian classical music and the ritual of the Mystic Star added greatly to the event. A Study Camp was held at Bhowali from 19 May to 6 June 2009 during which *The Voice of the Silence* was studied under National Lecturer, Prof. C. A. Shinde, and

Bro. M. L. Gupta. Thirty-five students benefited from this in-depth study. The 86th South Indian Theosophical Conference was held at Adyar between 9 and 12 April 2009, on the theme 'The Way of Wisdom'. Talks were given by Mrs Radha Burnier, Mrs Linda Oliveira, International Vice-President, National Lecturers Prof. R. C. Tampi and Prof. C. A. Shinde, and Bro. Pedro Oliveira.

The General Secretary, Mr S. Sundaram, and his wife, Mrs Manju Sundaram, visited many Federation Conferences during the year and travelled to various parts of India to inspire members and stimulate further work. The Vice-President, Mrs Linda Oliveira, accompanied by Mr Oliveira, spoke at Varanasi and other places. The National Lecturers spoke at many places in the country. Mr H. K. Sharan, apart from work done in Calcutta, translated part of the *Dhammapada* into Hindi, and took the initiative to bring closer relations between the Mahabodhi Society and the Indian Section, as a result of which the President visited the Society in Calcutta and a number of people from the Mahabodhi Society joined the Theosophical Society.

The Section published six information



pamphlets which have been sent to the Federations for wider circulation. The financial year ending on 31 March 2009 left the Indian Section with a modest surplus of Rs 6.75 lakhs. The General Secretary's appeal for funds is still valid as more funds are required to renovate the buildings at the Section Headquarters. During the year 56 members of the Indian Section passed away. The Section paid rich tribute to the former General Secretary, Dr C. V. Agarwal, who passed away on 19 June 2009 while working as the International Secretary at Adyar.

The membership of the Singapore Lodge has increased to 344, including new members and many students; these are attracted through a course in Theosophy. Meditation courses and study of the Mahatma Letters took place. Many talks and lectures were organized, and videos on Theosophy were screened. A Theosophical retreat was organized at Turi Beach Resort on the island of Batam, and a workshop on Self-realization and development was held there.

The Philippines Section has chartered two new Lodges and three Study Groups. The Theosophical Publishing House published a two-volume collection of articles by Geoffrey Hodson. Conferences, seminars and lecture tours were organized. The Golden Link School run by the Section has now become a college and has 432 students. The Bacolod Lodge is setting up a new school and Bohol Lodge has purchased land to set up a new school.

The Nippon Lodge in Tokyo, Japan, held regular monthly meetings. The mem-

bers studied translations of HPB's books. The Lodge also publishes *The Japanese Theosophist* bimonthly, containing translations of the works of Annie Besant, C. W. Leadbeater, H. P. Blavatsky, etc.

Dr Dara Tatray took over as President of the Australian Section on 18 January 2009 from Mrs Linda Oliveira. Dr Edi Bilimoria has also joined the Section headquarters as its Education Coordinator in July 2009. The Section has now 1289 members and has been very active during the year. Dr Ravi Ravindra and Prof. P. Krishna visited the area on lecture tours. The National Convention was held in Perth during January 2009. The Section's website and journal *Theosophy in Australia* have both been redesigned. The 'Union Index of Theosophical Periodicals' is now available, with 170,000 entries from international theosophical periodicals. The Campbell Theosophical Research Library has also undergone renovation and its contents have been rearranged improving the layout. Two Study Papers have been issued and a course on 'Theosophy and Science' is being designed. The Section is financially sound and has provided increased support for TS work outside Australia.

The New Zealand Section held its National Convention at Wellington in January 2009, with the theme 'Intuition on the Path'. The School of Theosophy was held at the Tauhara Centre on 'The Perennial Philosophy'. Dr Dara Tatray and Ms Rosanne DeBats from Australia visited New Zealand on lecture tours. The *TheoSophia* magazine and the website

have acquired new looks, while work on a new website is moving ahead.

Mr Kiran H. Shah was elected Chairman of the Pan-African Theosophical Federation, which comprises three sections in nine countries. Its General Meeting was held in Kampala, Uganda, on 13 April 2009. Regular newsletters were issued highlighting the activities of all three Sections. The Founding Chairman, Mr Tom Davis, attended the Conventions of all the three Sections.

The East and Central African Section held its Convention in Kampala during April 2009. It was attended by members from Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and South Africa. The Section has 216 members. Several programmes were conducted both in English and Gujarati. Mr C. V. K. Maithreya and his wife Dr Sunita visited the Section on a lecture tour. Kenyan postal authorities issued a special commemorative stamp to mark the centenary of the TOS in November 2008.

The West African Section held its Convention in October 2008 on the theme 'The Impact of Theosophy on World Thought'. A School of the Wisdom was also held in Accra, Ghana, in March 2009. The Section has 11 Lodges, 6 Study Centres and 241 members, and is planning to commission its headquarters building on completion, and to celebrate its 75th Anniversary next year. Theosophical literature translated into Twi was distributed to the public, as also some information leaflets.

The South African Section reports all

the Lodges to be active. The Durban Lodge has been revived and saved from possible closure. The newly chartered Germiston Lodge is well supported by its members, and construction of the new Lodge premises is almost complete.

Wales reports increased attendance at Lodge meetings as also inspiring talks by younger members. The Welsh Region now has a website of its own which is used for providing information. 'A Theosophical Awareness Day' was organized at the Conwy Library. Scotland reports declining membership which now stands at 96. To attract young members a website has been created with a page for each Lodge which attracts 200 to 300 visitors every month. Limerick Lodge in Dublin closed down, but a new Lodge called Phoenix Lodge, has been started. The fourth All-Ireland Convention was held very successfully in Dublin in May 2009.

In France, Ms Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu has been elected as General Secretary. The membership is around 400. The Convention theme was 'The Music of the Universe, Harmony of the Soul' with Mr Halldor Haraldsson from Iceland as Guest of Honour. The Belgian Section has 94 members in eight Lodges. The three Lodges which are based in Brussels organize their activities in the Headquarters which is being sold to the City of Brussels and a new Headquarters Building is being provided. The Lodge in Liege is closing down due to a lack of members.

The Dutch Section has 388 members,

ten Lodges, and seven Study Centres which work in close cooperation with the International Theosophical Centre in Naarden. *Theosofia* is published bi-monthly. There are national study groups at the Headquarters which have taken up studies of *The Secret Doctrine* and *The Mahatma Letters*.

The Finnish Section has 456 members in 25 Lodges, two of which are in Estonia. Separate Summer Schools were held in Finland and Estonia. A Centenary Exhibition of the Theosophical Society in Finland took place in the City Library of Turku. The Theosophical Society was represented at three fairs. *Yama and Niyama* by S. S. Varma was published in Finnish.

Norway did not have any seminars this year, but the members remain in touch through a monthly Newsletter which includes the Norwegian version of 'On the Watch-Tower'. The Organizing Secretary, Mrs Agnes Gaasemyr, is translating *Light on the Path* in Norwegian. Sweden has 162 members. A Summer School was held in July 2009 with Mr Halldor Haraldsson from Iceland as guest speaker. There were eighteen participants.

The German Section has increased its membership to 114. The Summer School was held in Lippstadt. Mr Siegfried Kuska, former General Secretary, passed away in October 2008. The report from Greece is good; they have become a larger body with an increase in the number of members. The Icelandic Society has also been active as usual. Both of these Sections have sent in their reports just as

this has gone to the press.

The Italian Section membership has increased to 1098. Its financial position is sound, and its activities have increased. Mr Antonio Girardi, General Secretary, visited a large number of centres for talks and conferences. Rome will host the 2010 World Theosophical Congress. The Italian Section has been active in publishing and a number of books have been printed. The website of the Section is attracting over 3000 every month. The Section and the TOS were able to provide support to Myanmar, India (including the Olcott Memorial School), the Philippines and Latin America. It also provided 260 colourful teddy bears for use by doctors treating children in developing countries.

In Portugal, meetings and discussions were held. Every month one or two public lectures are organized in Lisbon. Fourteen members of the Portuguese Section attended the Iberian Days organized in Madrid (Spain) — the theme was 'The Theosophical Life, a quest for authenticity in our daily life'. The Spanish Section held a meditation retreat in May in Barcelona with Miss Trâm-Thi-Kim-Diêu as director. Fernando de Torrijos, from the United States, was the guest speaker at the Summer School held in Platja d'Aro.

The Presidential Representative of Hungary reports that there are three Lodges and forty-two members. All the Lodges are active. Theosophical camps, regular Lodge meetings, and also some public meetings were organized, and some theosophical books have been published



in Hungarian. They are trying to finalize their Constitution.

Slovenia has four Lodges and sixty-seven members. Regular study classes and meetings were held and also several public lectures. The Winter School was organized in Soncek in February 2009, and the Summer School in June 2009 in Kranjska Gora which was conducted by the Vice-President, Mrs Linda Oliveira, and Mr Pedro Oliveira. They both gave talks at other Lodges. Three issues of the magazine *Teozofska Misel* were published. Some members gave support to Tibetan children, and to the HPB Hostel and the Social Welfare Centre in Adyar.

In Croatia, regular meetings and discussions were held. The All-Croatian Groups meeting took place in June 2009. *Human Regeneration* by Mrs Radha Burnier has been translated.

Ukraine has now four Lodges, two Study Groups and 71 members. The two Lodges in Odessa and Dnepropetrovsk were chartered this year. All the Lodges and Groups held regular meetings and study classes. The Ukrainian Theosophical Conference was held in Kiev during November 2008, with the theme 'Beauty an Expression of the Soul'. In May 2009, the Museum Centre for HPB and family was opened in Dnepropetrovsk and a Conference on the theme 'Real Guidance comes from Within' was held. Members from Russia, Slovenia and Romania were also present at Dnepropetrovsk.

The American Section organized TheosoFest 2009 which was attended

by 1600 persons. The Inter-American Theosophical Federation Conference was attended by members from North, Central and South America. Several other programmes and events were organized at National and Local level. Regular classes were also held at various centres. The prison programme was revitalized with new courses. The Vienna Correctional Centre in Illinois has a Theosophical Study Group which is attended by over thirty prisoners.

Membership of the Section was further reduced to 3694 and an initiative to attract new members has been introduced. A video documentary entitled 'Journey to Blavatsky's Tibet' has been produced. Several books were published this year in German, Dutch, Spanish, Italian, Czech and Chinese. A monthly e-Newsletter has been broadcast since January 2009, and a popular Theosophical community social network has been established. The Archives promoted awareness of the Society through local area programmes.

The Inter-American Theosophical Federation held a regional event in Zamoran, Honduras, in 2009 and 42 persons from thirteen countries participated. A new Study Group emerged in Zamoran. There are thirty-two members in the Regional Association in Central America: five in Guatemala, fifteen in El Salvador and twelve in Nicaragua. Theosophical study continues in all these countries.

Argentina reported an increase in membership and activities all around. There are now 327 members and 19

Lodges. *The Theosophist* was translated into Spanish and published on the website of the Section. Three issues of the national Theosophical magazine *Teosofia en Argentina* were published. Spanish books and pamphlets were published and sent to many countries in Central, South and North America. A Summer School, Retreat, a camp for youth and several seminars and study classes were held.

There was a further decrease in membership in Brazil, which now stands at 745. However, that Section remains the largest in Latin-America. Guest speakers at the International School of Theosophy held in July included Mr Ed Abdill, Ms Juliana Cesano and Mr Pablo Sender. The first Portuguese-Spanish Seminar, also held in the same month, attracted more than 200 members from a number of countries. In Colombia, visiting speakers to the Section included Isis Resende, Carmen Cesar Galante and Gaspar Torres. A 'Theosophical Week' was held in December 2008 with a number of activities and twenty-one members attended the Portuguese-Spanish seminar in Brasilia.

In Bolivia a retreat was held in San Benito on the subject of Mind, Consciousness and Evolution. There was also a national gathering held in La Paz with the participation of members from all Lodges in the country. In Uruguay new attempts were made to make the Society and the Theosophical principles more widely known. Blavatsky Lodge in Venezuela has done, upon request, service to the community in its area, including planting trees and mediating conflicts between neighbours.

In Mexico, a School of the Wisdom was organized in November on the theme 'Mahatma Letters: Probation and Chelaship'. The Guest Speakers were Ms Ana Lorena Howell and Ms Maria Orlich from Costa Rica. Mexican members participated in several seminars and meetings. An International meeting was held for young Theosophists. New Study Centres were started in Xalapa, Veracruz and Queretaro.

In the Dominican Republic a number of well-attended activities took place. Apart from a Retreat in Jarabacoa, a Summer School was held in Santo Domingo. The Lodges and Study Groups held regular meetings and study classes took place in Puerto Rico. A delegation of members attended the Inter-American Congress of Theosophy in Wheaton, Illinois. Another delegation attended the seminar in Honduras.

Mrs Diana Dunningham-Chapotin, International Secretary of the Theosophical Order of Service, reports a growing interest and involvement of members, partly attributable to an expanding team of volunteers. The Theosophical Order of Service is active in 28 countries.

The Olcott Education Society at Adyar has four main activities. The Olcott Memorial High School has 539 students including 236 girls. Fifty out of fifty-four students were successful in their final examinations. The students participated in extra-curricular activities like gardening and various crafts. The HPB Hostel has 23 students. These students are given

training in Yoga, meditation and exercises. Ninety-six children attend the Social Welfare Centre for day care. Tailoring and weaving courses were also conducted at the centre. At the Besant Memorial Animal Dispensary, Dr P. D. Jagannathan and his team treated 35 to 40 animals per day on an average, including some surgeries. The outreach programmes were conducted in nearby villages and 80 to 100 animals were treated on each visit.

The Besant Scout Camping Centre had 1500 children using the facilities and during their stay they experienced living with nature and gained some appreciation of the Theosophical Society.

Dr K. N. Neelakantan Elayath has been appointed Director of the Library since early September; before that he had been working a little at the Adyar Library. He was former Professor and Head of the Department of Sanskrit at the University of Calicut, his special interest being Vedānta, and Indian Philosophy. To his credit several books have been published. Dr S. Sankaranarayanan retired as Director because of his age and state of health, but he is going on with some work of the library to help out. The Library published one volume of the Adyar Library Bulletin, *Brahmavidyā*. The Library has acquired about 1600 books during the year. The supply of 42,280 new frames of photocopies to researchers was carried out.

The Theosophical Publishing House did well financially for the fourth successive year increasing the sales volume. An online bookstore has been

put in place. Seven reprints were published during the year. *The Theosophist* and *The Adyar Newsletter* were regulary published. The Subscription rates had to be increased on account of the increase in postal charges. Publication of a new title *The World Around Us*, comprising 'On the Watch-Tower' articles from *The Theosophist* (1980–2007) written by Mrs Radha Burnier, was released by Prof. M. S. Swaminathan at a function at the Headquarters Hall on 22 November 2009. A short biography on the life of N. Sri Ram by Mr Pedro Oliveira, has been taken up by The Theosophical Publishing House and made available in the bookshop. Other books and reprints are continuously being published because there is a demand for them.

The January 2009 session of the School of the Wisdom was directed by Prof. Ravi Ravindra which many students attended. Dr Ravindra dealt with many important texts including the *Bhagavadgītā*. Later in the year the Venerable Ajahn Sumedho Bhikkhu conducted a retreat to which people came from faraway places. In November 2009, Dr Satish Inamdar lectured to students on 'Brain, Consciousness and Transformation'. Later Professor C. A. Shinde lectured on 'Human Evolution and Spirituality'. The students were appreciative of the classes they attended.

I have travelled this year to various places within India, including the Section Headquarters, Calcutta, and Surat where the Gujarat Federation Conference took place. A number of members attended

these meetings. The Vice-President visited several places including the Telugu area and the Karnataka Federation Conference at Chitradurga.

I do not wish to say much about Adyar as it makes my report too long. However, I would like to point out that as members we should try to confine ourselves to acquiring and possessing as little as possible. In the old days there were people who were devoted to the religious life like Meister Eckhart, and in India we had people like Kabir who was a simple weaver, but until today their names shine outstandingly among those who study religious lore. Wealth has nothing to do with religious understanding.

Today there are some people in the world who have enormous wealth, most of whom waste their time on frivolities, but we must as individuals and as a body of people set a different example — one of frugality, simplicity and generosity. Perhaps, the greatest danger that the world faces is of material destruction caused by the activities of human beings. Some experts are of the view that unless

humanity changes its ways and adopts a simple lifestyle great disaster may follow. The environment cannot accept human activity, however foolish, beyond a certain level.

We can, therefore, seriously give consideration to a life of simplicity, with lofty thoughts and aspiration, because humanity is meant to progress along spiritual and not along material lines. We are proceeding headlong materially, but very few human beings yet realize that this may lead to grave disaster.

We have to share this planet with animals, birds, insects, plants and the earth itself. Are we really willing with all our hearts to live a simple life, to share with all creatures and turn our thoughts and hopes to the future which will be one of realization, at the physical level, of Universal Brotherhood? This is not an idle question. We have to live in this world, and we must face the problems it poses — which have now become problems which mankind is creating.

RADHA BURNIER



**THE TREASURER'S REPORT  
AND  
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 MARCH 2009**

## TREASURER'S REPORT 2008-2009

The salient features of the Income and Expenditure Account of the Society for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009 are as under:

### 1. Income:

The Income for the year was Rs. 12,820,201/-. The details are as follows:

	Year ended 31.03.2009 Rs.	Year ended 31.03.2008 Rs.
Interest Received	16,488,239	15,691,499
Interest Accrued and not Due	-	1,573,324
Fees and Dues	3,454,084	1,789,913
Surplus from		
Theosophical Publishing House	1,257,055	1,332,337
Vasanta Press	(162,392)	103,339
General Donations	213,820	406,734
Licence Fees	132,000	132,000
Miscellaneous Receipts	<u>30,434</u>	<u>13,849</u>
	21,413,240	21,042,995
Less: Interest transferred to earmarked funds	7,861,758	7,794,863
Interest accrued & not due of previous year	<u>731,281</u>	<u>959,762</u>
	<u>12,820,201</u>	<u>12,288,370</u>

The net interest income received for the year was Rs.7,895,200/-, after deducting the previous year's accrued interest of Rs.731,281/- and transferring a sum of Rs.7,861,758/- to earmarked funds. The gross interest for the year ended 31.03.09 has increased by Rs.796,740/- as compared to the previous year, due to increase in investments. In the coming years, the interest income will be much less as interest rates are going down.

The Fees and Dues received during the year amounted to Rs.3,454,084/-, as against Rs.1,789,913/- in the previous year. The Theosophical Publishing House (TPH) shows a surplus of Rs.1,257,055/- in the current year, as against Rs.1,332,337/- in the previous year. There is moderate increase in the income from publication and for the year it is Rs.3,174,885/- as against Rs. 3,040,647/- in the previous year. The Vasanta Press shows a deficit of Rs.162,392/- for the year, as against the surplus of Rs.103,339/- for the previous year, as the printing receipts are reduced by Rs.727,504/-. General Donations received during the year amounted to Rs.213,820/-, as against Rs.406,734/- in the previous year, a decrease of Rs.192,914/-.

## 2. Expenditure:

The net expenditure of the Society for the year is Rs.16,874,874/-, as against Rs.16,700,348/- in the previous year. The break-up is as follows:

	Year ended 31.03.2009 Rs.	Year ended 31.03.2008 Rs.
Departments	7,082,764	7,099,032
Charitable work	3,277,759	3,017,531
Propagation of Theosophy	1,690,287	1,749,911
International Offices	536,367	597,861
Establishment	2,941,529	2,930,409
Other Expenses	<u>1,346,168</u>	<u>1,305,604</u>
	<u>16,874,874</u>	<u>16,700,348</u>

### (a) Departments

The net expenditure of the Departments for the year is Rs.7,082,764/-, compared to Rs.7,099,032/- in the previous year. The broad details are as follows:

Departments	Year ended 31.03.2009 Rs.	Year ended 31.03.2008 Rs.
Bhojanasala and Leadbeater Chambers	291,930	403,264
Garden	982,678	905,687
Maintenance	<u>5,808,156</u>	<u>5,790,081</u>
	<u>7,082,764</u>	<u>7,099,032</u>

Bhojanasala and Leadbeater Chambers show a deficit of Rs.291,930/- in the current year, as against the deficit of Rs.403,264/- in the previous year. Boarding receipts have gone up from Rs.725,252/- to Rs. 853,346/- during the year. Though we are still providing food at subsidized rates, the rates were revised during the year in view of the steep increase in commodities & other prices. Lodging shows a surplus of Rs.77,811/-, as against deficit of Rs.75,764/- in the previous year, mainly because of increase in quarters maintenance receipts at Leadbeater Chambers by Rs.156,050/-. During the year quarters maintenance charges were also revised higher.

The deficit in the Garden is Rs.982,678/- in the current year, compared to Rs.905,687/- in the previous year. Efforts are being made to mechanize the work in the Garden Department. Drip irrigation has been introduced in part of the coconut grove. Expenditure on Drip irrigation is the main reason for the negative gross return in the cultivation account. Income from Garden produce is more by Rs.58,903/- in the current year compared to previous year.

In respect of the Maintenance Department, the net expenditure has increased to Rs.5,808,156/- in the current year as against to Rs.5,790,081/- in the previous year. The following were the major expenses:



	Year ended 31.03.2009	Year ended 31.03.2008
	Rs.	Rs.
Electricity Charges	1,824,949	1,892,712
Water Supply Installations Maintenance	179,004	190,506
Telephones	37,352	41,886
Electrical Installation Maintenance	199,277	199,077
Sanitary Installations Maintenance	75,215	78,644
Boundaries	1,349,901	439,968
Repairs and Maintenance of Buildings	2,329,932	3,243,865
Other Maintenance costs including		
Depreciation	540,283	462,328
Office Salaries and Other Expenses	<u>800,315</u>	<u>798,664</u>
	7,336,228	7,347,650
Less: Recoveries	<u>1,528,072</u>	<u>1,557,569</u>
<b>Net Deficit</b>	<b><u>5,808,156</u></b>	<b><u>5,790,081</u></b>

Repairs and maintenance of buildings, electricity cost, and repairs on boundary walls constitute a significant part of the overall expenses of the Maintenance Department, besides other expenses such as maintenance of water supply and electrical installations, and office expenses. Many buildings are old and will need renovation in the next few years. Moreover, the input cost of building materials like cement, iron, electrical, plumbing etc have increased considerably. Labour has also become scarce and expensive. Renovation of Leadbeater Chambers and Headquarters Hall is likely to be taken up shortly and it will involve considerable expenses. Therefore, significant increase in the Maintenance Department expenditure is anticipated in the coming years.

#### **(b) Charitable Work**

The amount spent on charitable work for the year was Rs.3,277,759/-, as against Rs.3,017,531/- in the previous year. Charitable expenses include the amount spent on education, animal welfare, hostel, social welfare and medical aid.

#### **(c) Propagation of Theosophy**

The expenditure on Propagation of Theosophy for the year was as follows:

	Year ended 31.03.2009	Year ended 31.03.2008
	Rs.	Rs.
Adyar Library and Research Centre (Net)	769,829	854,334
<i>The Theosophist</i> and <i>Adyar Newsletter</i> ..	115,119	92,289
Archives and Museum ..	66,808	101,767
School of the Wisdom (Gross)	102,517	68,807
Book Gifts ..	139,235	69,534
Convention and Seminars ..	490,951	552,782
Others	<u>5,828</u>	<u>10,398</u>
	<b><u>1,690,287</u></b>	<b><u>1,749,911</u></b>

In the case of the Adyar Library, the net deficit is Rs.769,829/- in the current year, as against Rs.854,334/- in the previous year. *The Theosophist* and *Adyar Newsletter* show a deficit of Rs.115,119/- in the current year, an increase of Rs.22,830/- over the previous year. Overseas postal rates have increased significantly and hence we have increased the subscription rates during the year. The expenditure of the School of the Wisdom is Rs.102,517/- in the current year, compared to Rs.68,807/- in the previous year. An amount of Rs.139,235/- was utilized for book gifts as compared to Rs. 69,534/- in the previous year.

#### **(d) Other Costs:**

The total cost of Establishment and International Offices was Rs.3,477,896/-, as against Rs.3,528,270/- in the previous year.

#### **3. Net Surplus:**

After transferring Rs.400,000/- to Education Endowment Fund and Rs.300,000/- to Adyar Estate Improvement Fund, there is a surplus of Rs.465,658/- in the current year, as compared to a surplus of Rs. 409,140/- in the previous year.

#### **4. Capital Expenditure:**

The total amount spent on capital account was Rs.401,227/- and relates to photo-copy machine, computers, printer, lawn mower, pumpsets and other assets.

#### **5. Overall Position:**

The overall financial position of the Society continues to be satisfactory. During the year, the Adyar Besant Commemorative Fund, which is the Society's main endowment fund, rose from Rs.57,722,725/- to Rs.58,853,849/- and Other Funds from Rs.108,270,023/- to Rs.112,741,572/-.

Although the overall financial position seems to be satisfactory, viewed against ever increasing finance requirement for repairing/renovating a number of old buildings, compound wall and providing somewhat reasonable remuneration to the employees, liberal donations from members and sympathizers are sought.

#### **6. Acknowledgement:**

On behalf of the Society, I take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude for the continued support of members throughout the world.

Chennai  
Date: 12 September 2009

**K. S. DASTUR**  
Honorary Treasurer

**FEES AND DUES RECEIVED**  
**From 1st April 2008 to 31st March 2009 (in Rupees)**

	Name of Section etc.	2007-2008	2008-2009
The Theosophical Society in:	Africa, South	8064	—
	Argentina	—	88163
	Asia, South-East	997	468
	Australia	126902	120787
	Belgium	27968	29419
	Bolivia	19153	18911
	Brazil	322811	1220062
	Canada	—	32614
	Costa Rica	15558	11293
	Dominican Republic	9490	10045
	Denmark	—	3905
	England	—	127467
	Finland	119657	59908
	France	—	78097
	Germany	37654	39293
	Iceland	21354	13407
	India	88499	88086
	Indonesia	—	5087
	Ireland	—	20919
	Italy	139306	150955
	Kenya	8604	—
	Mexico	19350	—
	New Zealand	24120	20157
	Norway	4682	6884
	Peru	5455	7569
	Portugal	22827	29839
	Puerto Rico	20889	61847
	Slovenia	11708	27223
	Spain	76653	86053

Sweden	22609	—
Switzerland	20740	27777
USA	506569	652820
Uruguay	12415	11241
Venezuela	8730	31213
Wales	6115	6683
Greece	—	19854
Russia	—	5669
Lodges attached to Adyar:		
Israel	23296	31017
Japan	2319	5016
Croatia	6000	7870
Ukraine	15643	31131
Singapore	—	209423
Fellows-at-large	34564	55912
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1790701	3454084
	<hr/>	<hr/>

THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY,  
BALANCE SHEET AS

[illegible]

This is the Balance Sheet referred to in our report.

For SRIHARI & CO.,  
Chartered Accountants

CHENNAI  
Date:31 Aug 2009

**E. S. NEELAKANTAN**  
Partner

As at 31-3-2008	ASSETS	Schedule No.	As at 31-3-2009	
Rs.			Rs.	Rs.
14,506,089	<b>Fixed Assets</b>	1		<b>13,920,590</b>
	<b>Investments: (At cost)</b>	2		
	In Scheduled Banks, Financial Institutions, Public Sector Undertakings and Units with Unit Trust of India and Other Mutual Funds. (Including Legacy Deposits)			<b>194,840,967</b>
186,791,776				
	<b>Current Assets, Loans and Advances:</b>			
8,366,226	Stocks	3	8,006,784	
1,438,518	Sundry Debtors		1,136,657	
3,997,639	Cash and Bank Balances	4	5,253,956	
2,166,812	Loans and Advances	5	2,781,829	
15,969,195				<b>17,179,226</b>
1,573,324	Interest Accrued and Not Due			
218,840,384				<b>225,940,783</b>

Schedule Numbers 1 to 7 and Notes on Accounts form part of the Balance Sheet.

For and on behalf of the Executive Committee of  
THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

**K.S. DASTUR**  
Hony. Treasurer



THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY,  
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Year ended 31-3-2008	EXPENDITURE	Year ended 31-3-2009	
		Rs.	Rs.
	<b>Departments: (Net Expenditure)</b>		
403,264	Bhojanasala & Leadbeater Chambers	291,930	
905,687	Garden	982,678	
5,790,081	Maintenance	5,808,156	
7,099,032			7,082,764
	<b>Charitable Work:</b>		
636,927	Animal Welfare	617,815	
1,509,800	Education	2,119,000	
15,260	Welfare Grants	24,430	
206,624	Free Dispensary and Medical Aid	157,060	
65,300	School Fees and Books	78,700	
162,020	Social Welfare Work	200,154	
400,000	HPB Hostel	74,000	
21,600	Others	6,600	
3,017,531			3,277,759
	<b>Propagation of Theosophy:</b>		
854,334	Adyar Library and Research Centre (Net)	769,829	
92,289	<i>The Theosophist</i> and <i>Adyar Newsletter</i> "	115,119	
8,149	Information and Public Relations "	4,477	
101,767	Archives and Museum "	66,808	
2,249	Theosophy-Science Centre "	1,351	
1,058,788		957,584	
68,807	School of the Wisdom (Gross)	102,517	
69,534	Book Gift "	139,235	
552,782	Convention & Seminars "	490,951	
691,123		732,703	
1,749,911			1,690,287
	<b>International Offices:</b>		
33,385	President and Vice-President	40,073	
337,711	Treasurer	303,380	
226,765	Secretary	192,914	
597,861			536,367
	<b>Establishment:</b>		
220,986	Headquarters	194,399	
136,565	General Manager's Office	109,108	
330,995	Housekeeping	414,283	
243,985	Sanitation	348,266	
1,997,878	Security	1,875,473	
2,930,409			2,941,529
15,394,744	c / f		15,528,706



Year ended 31-3-2008	INCOME	Year ended 31-3-2009	
Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
	<b>Propagation of Theosophy: (Net Income)</b>		
1,332,337	The Theosophical Publishing House		1,257,055
103,339	Vasanta Press		-162,392
406,734	General Donations		213,820
15,691,499	Interest Received	16,488,239	
959,762	Less: Reversal of previous year accrued interest	731,281	
14,731,737		15,756,958	
6,952,820	Less: Transferred to Various Funds	7,861,758	
7,778,917			7,895,200
1,573,324	Interest Accrued and not Due		
842,043	Less: Transferred to Various Funds		
731,281			—
1,789,913	Fees and Dues		3,454,084
132,000	License Fees		132,000
13,849	Miscellaneous Receipts		30,434
12,288,370	c / f		12,820,201

**THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY,**  
**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**

Year ended 31-3-2008	EXPENDITURE - <i>Contd</i>	Year ended 31-3-2009	
Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
15,394,744			15,528,706
	<b>Other Expenses:</b>		
22,003	Insurance	5,588	
—	Legal and Court Expenses	44,650	
123,313	Audit Fees	104,724	
173,459	Rates and Taxes	187,633	
1,585	Bank Charges	—	
857,763	Depreciation	777,986	
43,363	Motor Car Expenses	84,244	
85,480	Miscellaneous	91,135	
44,596	Provision for Gratuity	104,250	
-45,958	Provision for leave encashment	-54,042	
1,305,604			1,346,168
16,700,348			16,874,874
	<b>Less : Transfer from other Funds</b>		
520,934	Adyar Estate Improvement Fund	300,373	
46,000	Security	52,000	
304,000	Garden	354,457	
	<b>Charitable Work:</b>		
636,927	Animal Welfare	617,815	
1,509,800	Education	2,119,000	
95,000	Social Welfare Work	200,154	
163,000	HPB Hostel	74,000	
	<b>Propagation of Theosophy:</b>		
854,334	Adyar Library and Research Centre	769,829	
68,807	School of the Wisdom	102,517	
69,534	Book Gift	139,235	
552,782	Convention & Seminars	490,951	
4,821,118			5,220,331
11,879,230			11,654,543
—	Transferred to Education Endowment Fund		400,000
—	Transferred to Adyar Estate Improvement Fund		300,000
			12,354,543
409,140	Surplus transferred to General Fund		465,658
12,288,370			12,820,201

This is the Income and Expenditure Account referred to in our report of even date.

For **SRIHARI & CO.,**  
Chartered Accountants

**CHENNAI**  
Date: 31 Aug 2009

**E. S. NEELAKANTAN**  
Partner

Year ended 31-3-2008	INCOME - <i>Contd.</i>	Year ended 31-3-2009
Rs. 12,288,370	b/f	Rs. 12,820,201
12,288,370		12,820,201

Notes on Accounts form part of these Accounts.

For and on behalf of the Executive Committee of  
THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

**K.S. DASTUR**  
Hony. Treasurer

**THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY**  
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31-3-2011

(Rupees in Thousands)

EXPENDITURE				INCOME			
	Budget 08-09	Actuals 08-09	Budget 10-11		Budget 08-09	Actuals 08-09	Budget 10-11
<b>Departments (Net Expenditure)</b>				<b>Propagation of Theosophy</b>			
Bhojanasala & Leadbeater Chambers	110	292	493	Theosophical Publishing House	1,156	1,257	1,160
Garden	1,130	983	1,024	General Donations	200	214	300
Maintenance	5,917	5,808	6,426	Interest (Net)	8,500	7,895	8,500
Utilization from Other Funds	-700	-655	-800	Interest Accrued and not due (net)	1,000	—	—
<b>Charitable Work</b>				Membership Fees and Dues	2,000	3,454	2,000
Animal Welfare	1,100	618	700	Licence Fees	132	132	144
Education	2,000	2,119	2,000	Miscellaneous Receipts	100	30	100
Welfare Grants	25	24	30	Net Deficit	434	—	685
Free Dispensary & Medical Aid	250	157	200				
School Fees and Books	100	79	120				
Social Welfare Work	300	200	220				
HPB Hostel	300	74	200				
TOS	200	—	100				
Others	30	7	10				
Utilization from Other Funds	-3,500	-3,011	-3,120				
<b>Propagation of Theosophy</b>							
Adyar Library and Research Centre	947	770	954				
<i>The Theosophist</i> and <i>Adyar Newsletter</i>	37	115	147				
Vasanta Press	131	162	102				
Information and Public Relations	10	5	10				
Archives and Museum	150	67	100				
Theosophy-Science Centre	50	1	10				
School of the Wisdom	200	103	150				
Book Gift	300	139	300				
Convention & Seminars	—	491	—				
Workers' Training Camp	50	—	20				
Utilization from Other Funds	-1,450	-1,503	-1,900				
<b>International Offices</b>							
President and Vice-President	60	40	70				
Treasurer	400	303	400				
Secretary	280	193	250				
<b>Establishment</b>							
Headquarters	240	194	240				
General Manager's Office	140	109	140				
Housekeeping	350	414	430				
Sanitation	260	348	350				
Security	2,500	1,875	2,000				
Utilization from Other Funds	—	-52	-52				
<b>Other Expenses</b>							
Insurance Premiums	20	6	10				
Legal Expenses	40	45	50				
Audit Fees	100	105	150				
Rates and Taxes	300	188	200				
Bank Charges	5	—	5				
Depreciation	900	778	800				
Motor Car Maintenance	40	84	100				
Miscellaneous	200	91	100				
Provision for Gratuity	100	104	150				
Provision for leave encashment	—	-54	—				
Transferred to Education Endowment Fund	—	400	—				
Transferred to Adyar Estate Improvement Fund	—	300	—				
Excess of Income over Exp.	—	466	—				
	<b>13,522</b>	<b>12,982</b>	<b>12,889</b>		<b>13,522</b>	<b>12,982</b>	<b>12,889</b>

# HEADQUARTERS

ADYAR, CHENNAI 600 020





## OFFICERS AND HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS FOR 2009

### Executive Committee:

1.	Mrs Radha Burnier	<i>President</i>
2.	Mrs Linda Oliveira	<i>Vice-President</i>
3.	Mrs Kusum Satapathy	<i>Secretary</i>
4.	Miss Keshwar Dastur	<i>Treasurer</i>
5.	Mr D. K. Govindaraj	<i>General Council Member</i>
6.	Mr Surendra Narayan	<i>General Council Member</i>
7.	Mr Sriram Panchu	
8.	Mr S. Harihara Raghavan	

### General Manager

Adyar Library

*Director*  
*Librarian*

Mr S. Harihara Raghavan

Dr K. N. Neelakantan Elayath

Prof. C. A. Shinde

Bhojanasala

Mrs Usha Umakant Rao

Garden

Mr Shailendra Agrawal

Housekeeping

Mrs Radha Muthiah

Information

Mrs Helen Jamieson

Leadbeater Chambers

Mrs Uma Nilakanta

Maintenance

Mr K. Ravindran (*Asst. Superintendent*)

Medical Service

Dr S. D. Inbaraj

Museum and Archives

Sanitation

Mr T. S. Swaminathan

School of the Wisdom

*Director*

Prof. R. C. Tampi

Security

Mr J. Suresh

Theosophical Publishing House

Mr S. Ramu

Vasanta Press

Mr S. Harihara Raghavan

## OLCOTT EDUCATION SOCIETY

*Chairman* President, TS

*Secretary* Miss Sumana Kale

*Jt. Secretary* Mr Chittaranjan Satapathy

*Treasurer* Mr S. M. Umakant Rao

*Headmistress* Mrs Lakshmi Suryanarayanan

Olcott Memorial School

Mrs Vijaya Ravindran

HPB Hostel

Mrs R. Mythili

Social Welfare Centre

Dr P. D. Jagannathan

Besant Memorial Animal Dispensary



## SUMMARY OF STATISTICS 2009

National Societies and Sections	25	Section/Area	Number of		
			Lodges	Centres	Members
Regional Associations					
(formed under Rule 35(c))	12	26. Indonesia	15	2	244
Presidential Agencies	11	27. Ireland	2	1	55
Lodges Attached to Adyar	9	28. Italy	39	13	1,098
Total Lodges	949	29. Ivory Coast	3		29
Total Centres	177	30. Mexico	13		136
Total Membership 2008	28,607	31. Netherlands	10	7	388
Total Membership 2009	28,587	32. New Zealand	13	6	906
		33. Norway	3		16
		34. Pakistan	1		89
		35. Peru	2		28
		36. Philippines	20	6	324
		37. Portugal	11		200
		38. Puerto Rico	3		48
		39. Scotland	3	1	92
		40. Slovenia	4		67
		41. Spain	12	4	306
		42. Sri Lanka	9	1	173
		43. Sweden	7		162
		44. Switzerland	4		39
		45. Togo	2	1	427
		46. USA	46	66	3,899
		47. Uruguay	5		59
		48. Venezuela	2		15
		49. Wales	3		91
		Total	940	177	27,933
		Lodges/Members Attached to Adyar			
		1. El Sol Lodge, Ecuador			12
		2. Covenant Lodge, Israel			79
		3. Nippon Lodge, Japan			60
		4. Singapore Lodge			344
		5. Ankh Lodge, Kiev, Ukraine			14
		6. Aletheia Lodge, Yalta, Ukraine			15
		7. Pearl Necklace, Ukraine			13
		8. H. P. Blavatsky, Ukraine			15
		9. Lotus Lodge, Croatia			19
		10. Fellows-at-Large			83
					654

Section/Area	Number of		
	Lodges	Centres	Members
1. Africa, East and Central	7		216
2. Africa, South	5	2	263
3. Africa, West	11	6	241
4. America, Central	2	1	32
5. Argentina (and Paraguay)	19	8	327
6. Asia, South-East	7	1	166
7. Australia	11	7	1,287
8. Austria	3		68
9. Belgium	8		94
10. Bolivia	9	3	96
11. Brazil	33	15	745
12. Canada	4	7	171
13. Chile	3		36
14. Colombia	7	3	58
15. Costa Rica	3	1	58
16. Cuba	12		604
17. Dominican Rep.	4		40
18. England	33	6	1,035
19. Finland	25	2	456
20. France	21	2	370
21. Germany	6	2	114
22. Greece	11	2	180
23. Hungary	3		42
24. Iceland	11		382
25. India	452		12,699

## THE THEOSOPHICAL PUBLISHING HOUSE

The twelve month period from April 2008 to March 2009 turned out to be yet another (fourth successive) year of robust financial performance for the Theosophical Publishing House (TPH). Despite many constraints such as decreasing export orders and lower availability of some books, total sales grew by a modest 4%. Income from operations remained healthy at the same level as the previous year while royalty income came down due to lower receipts from the United States and Western Europe. Interest income dropped due to transfer of Rs. 6.5 million from investments of TPH to the Society's main account. Despite these two reduced incomes TPH generated a surplus of Rs. 1.3 million.

Subscriptions to the two journals, *The Theosophist* and the *Adyar Newsletter*, remained stagnant. Steep increase in postal rates (in most cases the increase was

threefold) during the year forced an increase in subscription rates which helped contain the deficit at Rs. 115,000.

For the period October 2008 to September 2009, only seven reprints (twenty-five in the previous year) could be brought out due to constraints in manpower in the Editorial Office. Severe manpower constraints continue to affect operations in the TPH office also. The online bookstore [www.adyabooks.com](http://www.adyabooks.com) went 'live' during the year and has taken off with orders trickling in through this site in its nascent stage.

A court case foisted on the TPH seeking to restrain it from publishing a book for alleged copyright infringement by a local publisher of doubtful reputation was successfully fought and the court refused to grant an injunction against TPH based on the merits of the evidences presented.

Mr S. Ramu  
General Manager

## THE ADYAR LIBRARY AND RESEARCH CENTRE

The Library is functioning efficiently under the able guidance of those responsible. Dr. S. Sankaranarayanan, the Director of the Adyar Library and Research Centre, could not continue in the post due to ill health and old age. He retired on 5 September 2009 at the age of 85. The Library wishes to record its gratitude for his contributions and services rendered. He has donated his personal collection of 500 books to the Library.

Dr. K.N. Neelakantan Elayath, a noted Sanskrit scholar and Indologist, was appointed as Director. He was formerly Professor and Head of the Department of Sanskrit, University of Calicut (Kerala). The manuscript library and stack room have been made more weather proof by installing a new AC system.

### Recent Publications:

1. *Brahmavidyā* Adyar Library Bulletin volume, 71 (2007).

2. *The Dialogue of Plato and the Upanishad-s* by N. Kazanas.

3. *Bādarāyana and Vyāsa as Authors of the Brahmasūtra: A Historical Analysis* by S. Sankaranarayanan.

4. *Anyāpadeśapañcāśat* of Paingānādu Ganapati Sāstri edited by T.M. Ramani.

5. *Taraptapaughasūtra—Krodāṛthavāda* edited by N. Sowri Rajan

6. *Vedic and Mesopotamian Interactions* by N. Kazanas

7. *Spiritualscape of Upanishad-s* by R. Balasubramanian

8. *Tapas in the Bhagavadgitā* by Minoru Hora

9. *Vedic Vāc and Greek Logos as Creative Power* by N. Kazanas

10. *Disciples of Śrī Śamkara* by S. Sankaranarayanan

#### Recent Reprints:

1. *Studies on Some Concepts of Alamkāra Śāstra* by V. Raghavan

2. *Pratyabhijñāhṛdayam* translated by Kurt. F. Leidecker

#### Works nearing completion:

1. Adyar Library Bulletin 72/2008.

2. Descriptive Catalogue of MSS. on Astronomy and Mathematics by Dr K.V. Sarma.

3. *Introduction to Chāndogyopaniṣad* by Dr. S. Sankaranarayanan.

4. *Gangeśa's Philosophy of God* by Dr. S.J. John Vattanky.

5. *The Number of Rasa-s*

6. *The Philosophy of Viśistādvaita*

7. *The Sphotavāda*

8. *The Edicts of Asoka*

#### Acquisition and Cataloguing:

During the year under report 169 books were purchased and 1,563 books were

accessed, 1,463 books were catalogued and added to the Library collections.

We are thankful for the 1394 books received from various sources as gifts. Most of the books are from the President's Office, TPH, Secretary's Office and TPH Wheaton.

#### Service Rendered:

During the year under report a total of 42,280 frames of photocopies were taken, out of which 268 were Palm Leaf MSS., 388 frames Paper MSS., 1,966 frames of Transcripts, 373 rare books, 4,280 frames and another 6,381 frames of books for the Adyar Library.

During the year under report 1,511 Readers and 657 Borrowers used the Library and consulted 8,230 books and Borrowed 657 books; 45 rare books and 35 MSS. were consulted.

#### Conservation and Preservation:

There is a dearth of lamination films and hence lamination work is lagging behind but 117 books were repaired, 343 books were bound and 17 books were photocopied.

#### Computer Section:

3,000 cards were catalogued and entered, and 1,000 cards were checked.

#### Scholars:

Seven scholars from various universities used the Library, out of which five scholars from the University of Madras, five from Universities in Germany and three from other countries.

#### Visitors:

2,269 visitors visited the Library during the year.

Prof. C. A. Shinde  
Librarian

## THE SCHOOL OF THE WISDOM

There were four sessions of the School of the Wisdom in 2009. The first was on 'Insights from the *Bhagavadgitā*' by Prof. Ravi Ravindra, a retired Professor of Comparative Religion and Physics of the Dalhousie University, Canada. It was a five-weeks course from 7 January to 11 February, devoted to an in-depth study of the text to explore the message of Yoga conveyed through it. Drawing freely on the Gospels and ancient mystics the Director highlighted the philosophy of detachment presented in the *Gitā*. A few afternoons were set apart for presentations by the participants. Sixty-five members and non-members from seventeen countries attended the course.

The School of the Wisdom had the privilege of receiving Venerable Ajahn Sumedho Bikkhu, Head of the Amaravati Buddhist Monastery in West Sussex, England and President of the Buddhist Society in London. He conducted a silent retreat on 'Intuitive Awareness' from 9 to 15 November. Every day there was silent, walking and sitting meditation from 5.30 a.m. to 5.45 p.m., followed by a Dharma talk by the Ven. Sumedho from 7.30 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. Through these activities the participants realized that when we let go of our habits and attachments to conditioned phenomena, we become aware of the wholeness and oneness of consciousness. Illustrating this by his rich and varied experience as a monk, Ven. Sumedho showed that when we develop wisdom and awaken consciousness to the

present moment we have nothing to fear. There were the traditional Pali chants at the beginning of each day's work. The guidance of a great spiritual leader of such eminence was a unique and memorable experience for the participants. There were twenty-six participants who came from eight countries.

Dr Satish Inamdar, Director of the Bangalore Education Centre of the Krishnamurti Foundation India, conducted a course on 'Brain, Consciousness and Transformation' from 16 to 27 November. Topics like intelligence, evolution, structure and function of human brain and behaviour were explored in great detail. The participants were taken to Vasantha Vihar, the headquarters of KFI, on two days. They visited the library, reading room and the bookshop and video tapes of Krishnamurti's talks were played. The last day was set apart for questions and answers. There were twenty participants from nine countries.

Prof. C. A. Shinde directed the course on 'Human Evolution and Spirituality', from 30 November to 11 December. He traced the evolution of form and the unfoldment of consciousness in the light of Theosophy. In the afternoon there was meditation and group discussion. Seventeen participants from seven countries attended the course.

Prof. R. C. Tampi  
Director



## ARCHIVES AND MUSEUM

(No report)

### OLCOTT EDUCATION SOCIETY

*Olcott Memorial High School:* The School reopened in June 2008 after the summer holidays with 555 pupils, 317 boys and 238 girls, including 46 new admissions. Sixty-two pupils sat for the final examination, twenty-four boys and twenty-three girls passed at the first attempt. The Government of Tamil Nadu, Department of School Education, felicitated the teaching staff with a certificate for increasing the percentage of passes from 63.77% to 75.81%.

The students were engaged in co-curricular activities such as gardening, gymnastics, scouting, sports etc., and participated in inter-school competitions in sports events, drama, drawing and painting, and model construction projects.

Educational excursions were organized according to educational levels. An annual health check-up was conducted and more serious cases were referred to respective specialists.

*HPB Hostel:* Fifteen pupils returned to the Hostel in June and were joined by five new boys making a total of twenty residents. Their day begins with prayers, followed by breakfast. When they return from school at 5 p.m., they enjoy a snack and play games. At 6 p.m. they assemble for prayers and meditation, followed by mythological and moral stories. Supper by 8 p.m. and the children complete their homework before going to bed.

*Social Welfare Centre:* The Nursery School reopened on 3 June 2008 with ninety-one children, forty-seven boys and forty-four girls, between two and five years of age. Parents leave their children there from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. They receive a nutritious vegetarian breakfast and lunch and learn alphabets and numbers in Tamil, English and Hindi. They also enjoy singing songs and dancing, drawing and painting, and playing in the sand. Dr R. Revathy conducted clinics for the mothers and children. Two six-month tailoring courses were conducted and fifteen lady students received certificates on completing the course successfully. Handicraft work, including woven towels, bed sheets, petticoats, purses and bags are all produced and sold during the School of the Wisdom and International Convention.

*Animal Welfare Centre:* Dr P. D. Jagannathan and his team cared for 8,000 animals, minor operations were performed and thirty-seven animals underwent Animal Birth Control operations. In-patients are fed three times daily, or when necessary, following the doctor's orders. Six outreach programmes were conducted in villages in coordination with the Head of the Village Panchayats, eighty to one hundred animals were treated.

Miss Sumana Kale  
Secretary



## THE BESANT SCOUT CAMPING CENTRE

Twenty-three scout and childrens groups, with around 1,600 participants, used the Besant Scout Camping Centre for their camping activities during the year. They gained valuable knowledge in the

values of the TS to the greatest extent possible within their own programmes.

Mr A. Victor Frank

*For the Besant Scouting Centre*

## THE THEOSOPHICAL ORDER OF SERVICE

The dearest wish of TOS members is to support the TS as a place where social action as spiritual practice is valued and actively nurtured. The TOS does not see its role as peripheral to the work of spreading Theosophical teachings nor does it see itself as simply duplicating the work of other humanitarian groups. The TOS exists to show the world that Theosophy has much light to shed on contemporary issues of concern and can help people find meaning in suffering. It aims to demonstrate that service grounded in spirituality can engender far-reaching good in the world. It labours to recognize and support Theosophists in their 'giving dharma'.

This year started on an upbeat note: The TOS in Nairobi generously sent to TOS National Directors around the world complimentary first-day covers of the stamp issued by the Kenyan government in recognition of our hundred years of service. The Kenyans held a packed commemorative function on 17 November 2008 with a group of dancers to welcome the special guests in attendance. The Minister for Gender and Children's Affairs and the Postmaster General planted a TOS

centennial tree.

We have moved into our second century of work with vigour and enthusiasm. The Plan of Action prepared a year ago by Dorothy Bell after consultation with the members is proving valuable in guiding the organisation's work. The two-monthly electronic newsletter and the website that were the first items of the Plan to be developed have generated a significant increase in interest in our work. The TOS in Tanzania, coordinated by Mrs Deepa Kapur, is now collaborating actively with us, and we are corresponding with fledgling groups in Portugal, Finland, Mexico and Hungary. A TOS start-up package, updated and expanded by Ananya Rajan, will shortly be available on our website. A very practical and helpful fifteen-page booklet entitled *Helping the Dying* has been written by Mrs Nelda Samarel and will be distributed internationally free of cost in 2010.

As part of our Plan of Action, members are beginning to support local United Nations projects. The Spanish-language coordinator of the TOS, Fernando Pérez Martín, has put out a series of short

newsletters encouraging them in this worthwhile work. Since we intend to expand our participation a little in this area, Mrs Lorraine Christensen, national director of the TOS in Canada, has agreed to coordinate efforts.

International support of TOS projects in developing countries is growing. The TOS in the USA is promoting and contributing again to the golden link School, which this year opened a modest college department, which includes a course on Theosophy in its curriculum.

International cooperation is taking still other forms. In the past ten years, the TOS in England has organised the knitting of over 8000 teddies for children in hospital. It recently sent the pattern for the teddies to the TOS in Italy and members there have produced dozens of teddies in their turn. Our Italian sisters, in collaboration with sister organizations, are now sending big batches to the TOS in Dar-es-Salaam in Tanzania for the Heart Babies project supported by the local TOS. Members in England and New Zealand are helping with the purchase of travel kits for the children being flown to India for surgery. All this happy collaboration across borders and oceans is heart-warming!

Mr B. L. Bhattacharyya continues to work hard as National Director of the TOS in India. He also spearheads efforts in times of national disaster, this year helping to organize emergency relief and

reconstruction in the wake of cyclone Aila in coastal West Bengal

Two new projects in India include 'Seeing Eyes for Everyone (SEE)', which is supervised by Dr Sunita and Mr C.V.K. Maithreya for the TOS in Chennai. This work is being funded in part by the TOS in Australia and in France.

The TOS in Pakistan continues to run extensive and varied educational activities in Karachi for needy citizens in spite of worrying political circumstances. A new programme is about to start of free medical treatment for mothers and children living in the depressed areas around the TOS headquarters.

Service takes many forms. There is direct, hands-on action like distributing food to the poor. There is advocacy work to achieve the system-wide changes necessary to end hunger. There is self-purification so that our social action is as effective as possible. There is education on the spiritual principles that can gradually transform society. All these forms of service have their place within the TOS. None is superior to another. The TOS with the TS is active in twenty-eight countries and aspires to become of greater and greater support to the TS in making the teachings of Theosophy of transformative value in the world.

Diana Dunningham-Chapotin  
*International Secretary, TOS*

# NATIONAL SOCIETIES AND SECTIONS

## AFRICA, EAST AND CENTRAL

### REPORTS FROM NATIONAL SOCIETIES AND SECTIONS REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS PRESIDENTIAL AGENCIES LODGES ATTACHED TO ADYAR

(Where necessary, reports have been translated, edited or condensed)

## AFRICA, SOUTH

Mrs Susan Kwafula  
General Secretary



# NATIONAL SOCIETIES AND SECTIONS

## AFRICA, EAST AND CENTRAL

The Annual Convention, attended by fifty-four members, was hosted by the Nile Lodge, Kampala, Uganda from 10 to 12 April 2009. The theme was 'Unity in a Changing World' and Mr. C.V.K. Maithreya, who toured the Section, was the Guest Speaker. The Section magazine, *The Theosophical Light*, was issued as a special Convention magazine. It is hoped that some of the Lodges which were closed down in Uganda in 1972 will be revived soon. Nairobi and Dar-es-Salaam Lodges are among the most active with 216 members; both are also active in TOS work. Mufulira Lodge in Zambia also carries out TOS activities. The Kenya Postal authorities issued a special

commemorative stamp to mark the centennial of the TOS on Monday, 17 November 2008.

One of the books studied in Nairobi Lodge was *Theosophy Explained in Questions & Answers* by P. Pavri. This Lodge also has a number of programmes in Gujarati on subjects such as Spirituality, the Inner Founders of the TS, etc. The Lodge has also encouraged new members to give short presentations on selected subjects. The bookshop at Nairobi Lodge has a rich collection of titles on sale and regularly adds new titles from TPH Adyar.

Mr Navin P. Shah  
*General Secretary*

## AFRICA, SOUTH

Theosophy is actively promoted in the Lodges with regular public meetings, study groups, and through the service of members in local communities. Durban Lodge has been revived and saved from possible closure. Its Committee has arranged regular and well-attended meetings and discussion groups. Gemiston Lodge, which was chartered recently, is

working well. Lectures and a study course on Basic Theosophy, using material from Dr K. V. K. Nehru's Theosophical slides, are held regularly. Articles for *The South African Theosophist* are entirely contributed by the Section's membership.

Mrs Susan Kaschula  
*General Secretary*



## AFRICA, WEST

The Section comprises Lodges in Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon and Liberia and has a membership of 241. The rapid growth of charismatic churches in the region may have contributed to the decrease in membership in this Section. A two-day School of the Wisdom was held in Accra, 6-7 March 2009, on the theme 'The Significance and Role of the Theosophical Society in the Divine Plan for our World'. Mr Isaac Zaney was the Director of Studies. The annual Convention was held on 26-27 October

2008 in Accra on the theme 'The Impact of Theosophy on World Thought'. The focus was on TS work and the future of the Society in West Africa. Copies of *The Theosophist* were distributed to public libraries, in universities and other institutions, the Parliament of Ghana, the Police, Islamic institutions, Women's organizations in Ghana and Nigeria.

Mr Paul B. Kwakyi  
*General Secretary*

## ARGENTINA AND PARAGUAY

The Section has now 327 members, with almost one fourth of them being under forty years of age. A Youth Camp was held at the Theosophical Centre in San Rafael from 9 to 13 January 2009 on the themes 'Seven Religions of the World and Their Mystery' and 'Life after Death'. The TOS retreat, which was also held in January 2009, had as its subject 'Service and Silence: Conscious Use of Natural Resources'. The annual Summer School, held in January 2009, explored the theme 'A Travel towards Immortality through the Heart' and was coordinated by Jose S. Contreras. All these activities were held at the Theosophical Centre in San Rafael. Work in all the Lodges in the Section went on as usual.

*The Theosophist* continues to be

published in Spanish thanks to collaborative work by a number of TS members. The translated texts are then posted on the website of the Argentine Section. The national magazine, *Teosofia en Argentina*, continues to be published regularly. The Lodge Fraternidad in Asuncion, Paraguay, is in administrative connection with the TS in Argentina and carries out weekly meetings. The General Secretary visited Santiago, Chile, in March 2009, thus renewing the contact with members in that country. Seventeen members from the Argentinian Section attended the Portuguese-Spanish gathering in Brasilia in July 2009.

Mrs Silvia Pastore  
*General Secretary*

## AUSTRALIA

Dr Edi Bilimoria joined the Headquarters staff as *Education Coordinator* at the end of July 2009. There were preliminary discussions with the University of Sydney regarding an academic conference to be jointly organized with the TS in Australia in 2010. The National President, besides her lecturing schedule in Australia, also gave talks at the New Zealand School of Theosophy, and spoke at the International Convention at Adyar in December 2008. An effort is going on to make *Theosophy in Australia* more contemporary without compromising any of the ancient wisdom teachings.

A significant number of essential functions are regularly performed by volunteers at our Headquarters. The biannual meetings of the National Council are becoming increasingly streamlined, with a new format tried in June 2009. Instead of holding a two-hour workshop prior to the Council meeting on the first day, as has been the custom, all business was conducted in one day, leaving time for a lengthier discussion on the second.

A long-term educational project is to prepare a *Guide to Resources Available for the Study of Theosophy and the Theosophical Society*, to be offered as an online resource, with an occasional publication. Two shorter term projects are also underway: a course on Theosophy and Science, and 'The Third Object Project', which seeks to trace the development in psychic or psychoenergetic

research from 1875 to the present day. Study Paper no. 13 consisted of two articles by Geoffrey Hodson, 'The Rod of Hermes' and 'The Law of Correspondences'. Study Paper no. 14 included an article by W.J. Heyting on 'Is the Theosophical Society True to Its Objects?'

The Section's website was redesigned with a new look and new content. A version of the *Union Index of Theosophical Periodicals* is now available, with over 170,000 entries. The web-based publications of the TS in Australia are kept in perpetuity by the National Library of Australia. Work of entering the collections of several TS libraries in Australia onto a database continues, which when uploaded will give the TS in Australia a greater online presence.

Dr Ravi Ravindra conducted the School of Theosophy at the Springbrook Centre, in March 2009, on the theme *Science and the Sacred* and also toured the Section. Prof P. Krishna was the guest speaker at the January 2009 Annual Convention, held in Perth, on the theme *Education, Society and Transformation*, and later in the year also toured some Lodges. Copies of *An Introduction to Yoga* by Annie Besant were sent to all members in the Section which number 1,287 at present. Regular educational activities take place in the Canyonleigh Centre in New South Wales. The Section continued its funding of the John Cooper Memorial Prize at the University of Sydney, and the Perennial Philosophy Prize

at La Trobe University, Bendigo, Victoria.

Every year, the Section makes a substantial donation to the International Headquarters, to be utilized at the President's discretion. Earlier in 2009 the Section made a one-off donation to the American Section in support of its work in producing a series of online courses available free of cost, and a large number of talks in MP3 format also available for free downloading. It also provided financial support to the World Congress in Rome next year.

Work on all the Lodges and Branches continued steadily during the year under review. A number of TS members with a strong interest in science are involved in an informal group concerned with science

and its interface with Theosophy. The Theosophy-Science group meets regularly in Adelaide, Brisbane and Sydney. For decades it was convened by Dr Hugh Murdoch, who handed over to Victor Gostin some two years ago. Dr Murdoch still produces the popular *Theosophy-Science Newsletter*. TOS members supported two major national projects during the year: they raised funds for four 'literacy home-schools' for children and young women in Pakistan and for the SEE project in Chennai that provides free vision testing, spectacles and cataract operations to needy people.

Dr Dara Tatray  
National President

## BELGIUM

There are ninety-four members in eight Lodges. In Brussels there are study groups on, among other subjects, introduction to Theosophy and *The Secret Doctrine*, separately in French and in Dutch. There are also two public lectures each month. It is expected that the renovation of the Headquarters building will be over in the beginning of 2010. Members expressed their gratitude to the former General Secretary, Mrs Riki van der Hecht, at her retirement after more than twenty years at

the helm of the Section, with a ceremony at the Headquarters and a meal at a vegan restaurant. A new Branch has been formed in Charleroi, which bodes well for TS work in the French-speaking region. The Flemish Branches in Antwerp are flourishing, with a sound programme of Theosophical studies. A tri-lingual national TS website is in preparation.

Mr Jan Jelle Keppler  
General Secretary

## BRAZIL

The Section has 745 members and although it has lost 31 members during the year it remains the largest Section in

Latin-America. The Lodges Fraternidade, in São Paulo, and Theresina, in the north-east of the country, are now inactive. Two

Study Groups are also inactive. The Section has thirty-three Lodges and fifteen Study Groups. The Section's magazine, *TheoSophia*, is published quarterly and distributed to all members. A number of regional gatherings took place during the year which strengthened the work in the Section, which has also an active group of speakers that visit many TS centres regularly. A number of Theosophical talks are broadcast, nationwide, on a television channel. The Cultural Department has sent out to all members a list of 132 recommended books for study. The Section also publishes a quarterly magazine, *Sophia*, which is sold in news stands across the country. The TOS has active centres in a number of cities in Brazil.

The annual Summer School was held

in João Pessoa, 28 January to 1 February 2009, on the theme 'The Science of Meditation'. The international School of Theosophy, held at the Brasilia Theosophical Institute from 22 to 27 July 2009, had as its theme '*The Secret Doctrine* and *The Mahatma Letters*', and 'Blavatsky's Esoteric Foundations of the Meditation Diagram'. The speakers were, Mr Ed Abdill from the United States, and Pablo Sender and Juliana Sesano, from Argentina. The first Portuguese-Spanish seminar, also held at BTI from 15 to 19 July, attracted more than 220 members from many countries who explored the theme 'Theosophy in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century'.

Mr Marcos Luis B. Resende  
General Secretary

## CUBA

Regular Theosophical studies continued in all Lodges. Among the books studied are *The Other Side of Death* by C. W. Leadbeater, *The Mahatma Letters*, *The Flight of the Eagle* by J. Krishnamurti, *The Key to Theosophy* by H. P. Blavatsky and *Glimpses into the Psychology of Yoga* by I. K. Taimni. The annual Convention was held on 16-18

January 2009 on the theme 'Universal Brotherhood and the Challenges in the World Today'. Basic Courses on Theosophy are being taught using the slides provided by Dr K. V. K. Nehru.

Mr Gaspar Torres  
General Secretary

## ENGLAND

Membership figures for the section are about the same as last year. Where Lodges are running regular study courses with

meetings on Theosophical teachings and making good use of national speakers they are doing well. We have started work on



a proposed diploma course in Theosophy. It would be a distance learning course, mainly via the Internet, with tutors in each main location. The Foundation for Theosophical Studies is working at a higher output now with the National Speakers scheme running well. Lodges and groups can choose from over 200 talks by more than twenty speakers.

The 2009 Summer School, on the theme 'Spiritual Awareness in the Twenty-first Century', was attended by over 120 people, including members from Wales and Scotland. A Trans-Pennine residential weekend conference was held in the spring by the Northwest Federation at Chorley in Lancashire, with a full-house attendance. The Southern Federation also held a spring conference at Tekels Park

which was also well attended. The Section ran its first 'Member's Open Day Forum' in the spring, which was hosted by Merseyside Lodge with helpers from the Northwest Federation. The Headquarters of the Society in London continues with a varied programme of lectures, seminars and courses throughout the year. The Section, through its charity – The Foundation for Theosophical Studies – is helping to fund the publication of three new books: *The Monad* by Yvonne Burgess, *The Origin of the Vedas* by Jeanine Miller, and *The Qabala* by Geoffrey Farthing.

Mr Eric McGough  
General Secretary

## FINLAND

The Section, which has 456 members, had many activities during the year, including some new initiatives. The Summer School took place at Kreivilä on the theme 'Cosmic Rhythm, Music and Harmony' with Halldór Haraldsson, from Iceland, as guest speaker. In Estonia members had their own Summer School Miss Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu, Chairman of the European Federation of the TS, as guest speaker. Sunday lectures are held at the headquarters in Helsinki, with good attendance. Two three-day courses were held, one on 'Foundations of Theosophy' and the other on the *Bhagavadgītā*. A

study group on Shirley Nicholson's *Ancient Wisdom – Modern Insight* attracted interest. *Yama and Niyama* by S.S. Varma was published in Finnish and the Finnish translation of *The Masters and Path* was reprinted at TPH Adyar.

In October 2008 there was the inaugural meeting of the Theosophical Order of Service in Finland, which has already started fund raising for two projects. A 'Theosophical Network' Internet site was started to which members can contribute messages and communicate with each other. An exhibition, 'One Hundred Years of the TS in Finland', took



place in the city library of Turku. The European Federation of the TS had its annual meeting at Kreivilä with a workshop on 'Aspects of Theosophical

Work'. Thirty-four members from Europe were in attendance.

Ms Marja Artamaa  
General Secretary

## FRANCE

The work has been carried as usual with regular programmes in Paris and Marseille. Courses are offered free of charge to members, sympathizers and the public three Saturdays per month. At the Headquarters in Paris three different speakers presented basic and modern Theosophy. Seminars are organized quarterly, under the auspices of the European Federation. Three seminars were conducted by Miss Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu on *The Mahatma Letters, Glimpses of the Rig Veda* and *Glimpses of the*

*Upanishads*. The Convention theme was *The Music of the Universe, Harmony of the Soul* with Mr Halldór Haraldsson, from Iceland, as the guest of honour. During the Convention Miss Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu was elected General Secretary. Regular reprints of basic Theosophical books were carried out. The Section gives financial aid to some elderly members who are in difficulty.

Ms Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu  
General Secretary

## GERMANY

There are 114 members in Germany. Books being studied include *The Secret Doctrine* and *The Seven Rays* by Ernest Wood. Joy Mills' abridged edition of *The Key to Theosophy* is also used in introductory studies. Weekend study meetings continue to be held in the north of Germany and in May 2009 similar meetings were started in the south. A new

Lodge is being formed in Regensburg. The Summer School, attended by forty people, was held in Lippstadt, with Miss Mary Anderson and Miss Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu as guest speakers. The theme was 'To Live Theosophy'.

Ms Manuela Kaulich  
General Secretary

## GREECE

Lodges in Greece are working regularly and promoting the Objects of the TS. During the year under review we

received the visit of the following speakers: Mr Marcos Resende, National President of the TS Brazil; Mrs Linda

Oliveira, international Vice-President, and Mr Pedro Oliveira. Their talks were appreciated. The recently formed Lodge 'Kaberyos' organized a successful summer conference in the island of Samothrace on 'The Kaberyan Mysteries' which was attended by fifty people. The Section magazine, *Ilisos*, has 600 subscribers. The following books are being translated into Greek: *The Other*

*Side of Death* by C. W. Leadbeater, *The Mahatma Letters to A. P. Sinnett*, *A Study in Consciousness* by Annie Besant and *Talks on the Path of Occultism*. Two new study groups were formed – one in Crete and the other in Tino.

Mr Theodore Katsifis  
General Secretary

## ICELAND

There were fifty-one talks to the public this year, with an attendance between 40 and 60 people. The 'Open House' programme, held on Saturdays, also attracted a number of participants and consists of either an informal talk, a dialogue on a certain topic or a video followed by discussions. Lecture titles in Lodges during the year included, 'The Heritage of the Apostle Thomas', 'On Creativity', 'Will – Free or Dependent?', 'Advaita and the Absolute Truth', 'Music as Meditation' and 'Ten Questions to the Dalai Lama'. The Section journal, *Gangleri*, which has been published bi-

annually since 1926, has more than 700 subscribers. An Icelandic translation of Rohit Mehta's *Seek Out the Way* awaits publication. The Summer School was held at Laugarvatn, 25-28 June, with Miss Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu as guest speaker. The theme was 'Thou canst not travel on the Path before thou hast become that Path itself'. The General Secretary was the guest speaker at Summer Schools in Finland and Sweden.

Mr Halldór Haraldsson  
General Secretary

## INDIA

The 118<sup>th</sup> Indian Section Convention was held on 27 December 2008 and was inaugurated by the International President, Mrs Radha Burnier. A symposium on 'Compassion is the Function of Wisdom' was held on 29 December. The North India Study Camp was held at the Section Headquarters in Varanasi from 15-19

October 2008 and attracted 141 members. The theme was 'What is Theosophy?' and the study was directed by the International President with the participation of Dr N.C. Ramanujachary and Mr P.K. Jayaswal. Also featuring on the programme were an evening of Indian Classical Music and the Ritual of the Mystic Star. The 161st birth

anniversary of Dr Annie Besant was celebrated at the Headquarters on 1 October with Prof. D.P. Singh, Vice-Chancellor of Banaras Hindu University, as the Chief Guest. Kashi Tattva Sabha, the Lodge functioning at the Headquarters, organized twenty-three public lectures during the year. Weekly study meetings covered *The Key to Theosophy* and *Seeking Wisdom* by N. Sri Ram. Also studied were *Avadhuta Gita* and *Brahmasutrā*. The Ritual of the Mystic Star is performed once in a month.

A Bhowali study camp was held from 19 May to 6 June 2009 with Prof. C.A. Shinde as Director of Studies. The book studied was *The Voice of the Silence* and there were thirty-five members in attendance. The 86th South India Conference was held at Adyar, 10-12 April 2009, on the theme 'The Way of Wisdom'. The International President, Mrs Radha Burnier, in her introductory talk, spoke on 'The Nature of Wisdom'. Speakers included Mrs Linda Oliveira, international Vice-President, Prof. R.C. Tampi, Mr Pedro Oliveira and Prof. C.A. Shinde.

The General Secretary attended and delivered talks at annual Conferences of the following Federations: Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, Utkal and Bengal. He also visited a number of Lodges. Dr Ramanujachary, Director of Studies of the Section, also visited a number of Lodges and conducted study camps. The Section's National Lecturers, namely, Prof. C. A. Shinde, Mr Satyavir Tyagi, Mr Hrishikesh Sharan, and Prof. K. V. K. Nehru, toured many Lodges in

different Federations and presented talks both for members and the public.

The International President was the chief guest of the Eastern Zonal Conference, the 89<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Bengal Theosophical Federation and the 127<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day of Bengal Theosophical Society, all held at the BTS Hall in Kolkata, in April 2009. She also delivered the inaugural address on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of Raja Lodge, Vellore, on 28 February. The international Vice-President, Mrs Linda Oliveira, and Mr Pedro Oliveira, visited a number of Lodges in India between 15 and 27 September 2009, including the ones in Kakinada, Guntur, Hyderabad, Secunderabad, Nagpur, Allahabad. University students from the United States and France visited the Section Headquarters to enquire about the work of Dr Annie Besant for the TS and for India.

The average monthly circulation of the Section's journal, *The Indian Theosophist*, was 3,700 during the year. The Section brought out a special number on 'Occult Chemistry' in December 2008 which was very much appreciated. Dr. C.V. Agarwal, former General Secretary of the Indian Section for many years, passed to peace on 19 June 2009. He served the Society in various capacities, including Presidential Representative for Southeast Asia and, more recently, as International Secretary. In all, fifty-six members of the Section passed to peace during the year under review.

Mr S. Sundaram  
General Secretary

## INDONESIA

(No report)

## ITALY

The launching of the Section's website, which has over 3,000 visitors every month, has caused an increase in correspondence and contacts. The Rome headquarters has been renovated during the year and it is expected to house the Section's National Library. Publishing activity has continued steadily during the year and some of the following titles which have been published include *Thought Power* by Annie Besant; *Man Visible and Invisible* by C. W. Leadbeater; and *The Key to Theosophy* and *Gems from the East* by H. P. Blavatsky. The Section's magazine, *Rivista Italiana di Teosofia*, has a circulation of 1,300 copies. There are 1,098 members in the Section and three new Study Centres were started. The General Secretary visits Lodges and Study Centres regularly. The European School of Theosophy was held at Venice Lido in October 2008. In conjunction with

the European Federation of the TS the Section held a seminar at the Summit Hotel in Rome, in March 2009, on the theme 'Life after Life according to Theosophical Teachings'. The 95<sup>th</sup> National Congress was held at Castrocaro on 29-31 May 2009 on the theme 'Theosophy and its Method Compared to Contemporary Science and New Discoveries'. The Section has supported TOS work for Burma (Myanmar), India (including the Olcott School), The Philippines, Latin America and also the English TOS project 'Teddis for Tragedies', in which volunteers knit little teddies to be sent to seriously ill children in third world countries. The contact with Adyar is the focal point for all Italian Theosophists.

Mr Antonio Girardi  
*General Secretary*

## MEXICO

Between March and October 2009 six courses were held at the National Headquarters on Fridays evenings with a very good attendance. Topics included 'Me and Theosophy', 'Understanding and Practising Theosophy', 'Theosophy as a Path of Liberation' and 'Humanity and

Theosophy', among others. Ms Carmen César Galante, former General Secretary of the TS in Spain, visited Mexico City and delivered a talk on 'Theosophy in the Twenty-first Century'. The Section organized a School of the Wisdom on 27-28 November on the theme 'The Mahatma



Letters: Probation and Chelaship', with Ms Ana Lorena Howell and Mrs Maria Orlich, both from Costa Rica, as guest speakers. The Section was represented at the Seminar in the Caribbean Basin, held in Honduras in May 2009, and at the Portuguese-Spanish Gathering and International School of Theosophy held at the Brasilia Theosophical Institute in

Brazil in July 2009. Two new study centers were started in Xalapa. All these international and national events help to bring us closer and motivate us to continue studying and working for the Objects of the TS.

Miss Lissette Arroyo Jiménez  
General Secretary

## THE NETHERLANDS

There are 388 members in Holland distributed in ten Lodges and seven Study Centres. There is close collaboration with the International Theosophical Centre in Naarden where TS events usually take place. Mrs Ali Ritsema conducted the Autumn School on 9-10 November 2008 on 'Karma, Nirvana and Dharma'. A meeting on 4 April 2009 had as its theme 'Creative Forces in Nature and Man' with Mr Hans van Aurich and Dr Gert van der Steen as guest speakers. The Section magazine, *Theosophia*, is published bimonthly and includes articles by Dutch writers as well as articles from *The*

*Theosophist* and *The Quest*. It includes a column with biographical information of well-known Theosophists. A new edition of *Man Visible and Invisible* was published in September 2009. A monthly study group meets at the National Headquarters in Amsterdam with *The Secret Doctrine* and *The Mahatma Letters* as the focus of study. Theosophical study is also carried out by Lodges and Study Centres throughout the Section.

Miss Els Rijneker  
General Secretary

## NEW ZEALAND

The National Convention was held at Wellington in January 2009 on the theme 'Intuition on the Path' with Ms Rosanne DeBatts from Australia as guest speaker. Dr Dara Tatray, National President of the TS in Australia, was the guest speaker at the School of Theosophy at the Tauhara Centre. The theme was 'The Perennial

Philosophy'. The Section continued to provide presenters to Branches around the country. The National President of the TS in the Philippines, Mr Vicente Hao Chin, Jr, toured the Section and conducted a Self-Transformation seminar in Auckland. *Theosophia*, the Section's magazine, underwent a re-design and is



appreciated both nationally as well as internationally. The Section's website is also undergoing improvements in order to enhance its service to both TS members and the public. A social network website

was also established in order to facilitate communication among members.

Mr Warwick Keys  
*National President*

## THE PHILIPPINES

The Theosophical Publishing House in Manila has published a two-volume collection of all the known articles of Geoffrey Hodson entitled *Sharing the Light*. The compilation has more than 400 articles and covers a period of about fifty years. The Golden Link School is now Golden Link College with the opening of its college department with two courses: Bachelor of Secondary Education and Bachelor of Elementary Education. The College received generous donations from the TOS in the United States and from the Kern Foundation.

The 2009 Visayas-Mindanao Federation Conference was held in Cebu City on 1-3 May 2009. The National President gave a public lecture on 30 April on 'The Ageless Wisdom in Daily Living'. The Luzon Federation Conference of 2009 was held in Munoz City, on 22-24 May 2009, on the theme 'Service and the Theosophical Life'. Bohol Lodge is now on its fourth year of issuing a weekly column on Theosophy in one of the major local newspapers and it recently featured an article by the International President, Mrs Radha Burnier. Two new Lodges were chartered by the International President: The Wisdom Seekers, in Manila, and Toril, in Davao City.

More than ten universities and schools in Mindanao invited Mr Vicente Hao Chin, Jr to speak on 'Transformative Education and Character Building' during July and October 2009. The Department of Education of the province of Sarangani also invited Mr Hao Chin, Jr to lecture on the same subject. Facilitators of the Theosophical Society helped in dealing with the trauma of war and typhoon in northern Mindanao and in Baguio City, in October 2008. Mrs Preciosa Soliven, Secretary General of the UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines, spoke on 'UNESCO and Interfaith: Brotherhood for All' at the National Headquarters in August 2009. Mr Pertti Spets, General Secretary of the Swedish Section, visited the Section in June 2009 and gave a talk. Mr Gerard Brennan, a TS member from Australia, returned again to the Philippines to teach in Golden Link College for two weeks. In October 2009 he delivered a lecture at the National Headquarters on 'Theosophy: The Bridge to Wisdom'. Mr Hao Chin Jr. toured New Zealand in September 2009. He also conducted a Self-Transformation seminar in Auckland.

Mr Vicente Hao Chin, Jr  
*General Secretary*

## PORTUGAL

Lodges are working with enthusiasm and commitment, studying Theosophical literature and related subjects. Monthly lectures are held at the Headquarters in Lisbon. Fourteen members from Portugal attended the Iberian Days in Madrid, in

April 2009, which had as its theme 'Theosophical Life: Quest for Authenticity in our Daily Life'.

Mr Lício Correia  
General Secretary

## SPAIN

The Theosophical Iberian Days were held in El Escorial, 9-12 April, on the theme 'Theosophical Life: Quest for Authenticity in our Daily Life', with an attendance of fifty five people. Miss Kim-Diêu conducted a Meditation retreat in May which attracted a good attendance. The Summer School was held at Platja d'Aro and explored the theme 'To Be a Lamp unto Ourselves', with Mr Fernando A. de Torrijos, from the United States, as

guest speaker. The School was attended by ninety-five people. The General Secretary visited a number of Lodges during the year. Among the books published during the year are *The Wisdom of the Upanishads* by Annie Besant; *Invisible Helpers* by C. W. Leadbeater and *Practical Occultism* by HPB.

Ms Clarisa Elosegui  
General Secretary

## SWEDEN

There are 162 members in the Section. The Summer School was held on 13-17 July 2009 on the theme 'Cosmic Rhythm and Harmony' with Halldór Haraldsson, General Secretary of the Icelandic Section, as guest speaker. Books studied by the Lodges during the year include *A Theosophist Looks at the World* by N. Sri Ram, *Gods in Exile* by J. J. van der Leeuw, *The Secret Doctrine*, *Yoga-sūtras of*

*Patañjali*, *Self-Culture and Man, God and the Universe* by I. K. Taimni. The Section's magazine, *Tidlös Visdom*, is published quarterly. There has been an increase in members' activities in Stockholm both in spring and in autumn.

Mr Pertti Spets  
General Secretary

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

In spite of a smaller number of staff and reduced financial resources we have moved ahead on a number of fronts. Highlights during the year include the Inter-American Theosophical Federation meeting, the June Storytelling Campout, the Summer National Gathering interfaith event and the multimedia Albert Schweitzer and Johann Sebastian Bach presentation. The Section has expanded its Internet services and resources, including online texts, videos, discussion groups and library resources.

In spite of our best efforts membership continues to slide down and is now at 3,694. In order to address the membership decline the Board of Directors decided to launch the 'Visioning Process' which has asked the input from Board Members as well as other leading members from around the country. TS members have participated in the Wheaton Chamber of Commerce, the town community fair, the Council for the Parliament of the World's Religions and the local historical society. Several Lodges have set up discussion groups within 'The Theosophical Community' social network website which has now over 500 members.

The Department of Education has expanded the 'members only' section of the website to include free study guides

and manuals available only to TS members, including a study guide on *The Voice of the Silence*. A Spanish translation of John Algeo's *Theosophy: An Introductory Study Course* is also available online. New courses for the prison programme include *How to Meditate* and *The Seven Human Temperaments*. The Vienna Correctional Centre in Illinois has a Theosophical study group with more than thirty prisoners. Among the various programmes and special events held at 'Olcott' during the year 'Theosofest 2009' was a great success, attracting around 1,600 people. The Audio-Video Department has 162 Theosophical lectures formatted into MP3 files that may be downloaded at no charge. Forty-three audio CDs and twenty-nine DVDs were produced during the year. The video documentary 'Journey to Blavatsky's Tibet: A 2007 Pilgrimage Tour' has now been completed. New titles from Quest Books include, among others, *The Hero and the Goddess* by Jean Houston, *The New Science of the Paranormal* by Lawrence LeShan and *A Dictionary of Gnosticism* by Andrew Smith.

Mrs Betty Bland  
National President

# REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

## AMERICA, CENTRAL

There are thirty two active members in the region – twelve in Nicaragua, fifteen in El Salvador and five in Guatemala. Books and subjects studied during the year include *The Science of the Emotions*, 'Theosophy and Religion', 'The Plan and Purpose of Life', *At the Feet of the Master*, 'Reincarnation and Karma'. Due to the

support of the Inter-American Theosophical Federation, Mr Terry Hunt, from the United States, and Mr Isaac Jauli, from Spain, gave talks to the public as well as to members.

Aura Elena Pozas de Martinez  
*Organizing Secretary*

## AUSTRIA

(No report)

## CANADA

The magazine *Light Bearer* is published regularly. Theosophical work in Canada has to struggle with the size of the country and the small number of dedicated workers available. Athabasca Study Group studied various subjects during the year, including Gnosticism, Mythology and Quantum Physics. It also studied *The Seven Principles of Man* by Annie Besant. The Lotus Lodge in Calgary studied the following books: *Space, Time and Self*, *The Voice of the Silence* and *The Secret Doctrine*. The Lodge's Executive Committee continued a study of *To Form a Nucleus – A Guide to Work in the Theosophical Society* by Hugh Shearman.

The Branche 'Les Montagnes Bleues' in Québec studied the following books

during the year : *The Solar System* by A.E. Powell, *Introduction to Theosophy*, by Adelaide Gardner, *The Ancient Wisdom*, by Annie Besant. Blavatsky Lodge in Vancouver continued its Thursday night meetings when they studied Geoffrey Farthing's *Deity, Cosmos and Man*, John Algeo's 'Studies in *The Voice of the Silence*', 'Chelas and Lay Chelas' by HPB and *The Creative Silence* by Rohit Mehta. Kalahamsa Study Group in Quebec conducted the study of volume one of *The Secret Doctrine* and *After-Death Consciousness and Processes* by Geoffrey Farthing. York Lodge in Toronto was reactivated in April 2008 and regular meetings have taken place. Study and discussion of *At*



*the Feet of the Master* were followed by videos of Krishnamurti talks. During the winter program they discussed a variety of Theosophical subjects, including viewing and discussing the DVD

'Introduction to the Secret Doctrine' with Ed Abdill.

Mrs Suzanne Hassanein  
President

## CHILE

The Annual Convention was held on 19 April 2009 on the theme 'Unity of Life'. Visiting speakers during the year included Mr Juan Carlos Palmeri and Mrs Paulina Palmeri, Mr Juan Cassiba, Miss Carmen Cesar Galante and Mrs Silvia Liliana Pastore. Books studied by the Lodges included *Talks on the Path of Occultism*, *Bhagavadgītā*, *Meditation* by Clara Codd, *No Other Path to Go* by Radha Burnier,

*Principles of Theosophical Work* by I. K. Taimni and *The Inner Life* by C. W. Leadbeater. The magazine, *Revista Teosófica Chilena*, includes articles originally published in *The Theosophist* as well as in other magazines. TS information pamphlets have been distributed widely.

Miss Ana Gloria Bustos  
Organizing Secretary

## COLOMBIA

Lodges in Bogotá studied the following books: *The Key to Theosophy*, *Raja Yoga*, *The Secret Doctrine*, *The Voice of Silence*, *Self-Culture* and *Space, Time and Self*. One of the Lodges, Blavatsky, supports work with children and the Order of the Round Table as well as the TOS. Arco Iris Lodge organized conferences on 'Art in Islam' and 'The Environment and Theosophy'. Lodges in Medellín carry on regular TS work in their area.

Regular public meetings take place at the Section's headquarters in Bogotá. The Section participated in the event called 'Brotherhood is the Key' held in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Twenty-one members from Colombia attended the Portuguese-Spanish meeting in Brasília, in July 2009.

Mrs Julia Martinez Ballesteros  
Organizing Secretary

## IRELAND

Membership is steadily increasing in Ireland. Due to lack of local interest the Limerick Lodge was closed down in January 2009. There are regular meetings in the newly chartered Phoenix Lodge in Dublin. The small library of this Lodge is

also growing. Belfast Lodge continues to function well from a new location with meetings on Sundays in the form of talks by members, questions and answers, or study sessions mainly on *The Secret Gateway* by Ed Abdill, excerpts from *The*



*Theosophist* and *Light on the Path* by Mabel Collins. The fourth All Ireland Convention took place on 23 May with Miss Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu as guest speaker. She spoke on 'The Yoga of Theosophy' and took a questions and answers session on the topic. She also presented the Charter to the President of

the Phoenix Lodge. The Organizing Secretary has been in contact with all TS members in Ireland through Study Notes and an accompanying letter with Theosophical news.

Marie Harkness  
*Organizing Secretary*

## IVORY COAST

Theosophical work during the year under review was slightly improved if compared to past years of military and political crisis in the country. Attendance at meetings has been more regular than before, which brings hope for future work. The main book studied during the year was *The Key to Theosophy*. Most of our conversations and debates revolved around the subject of 'Inner Peace as the Condition for True Outer Peace'. Such conversations have helped us to go through the crisis in our country. Monthly conferences were also held on the

following subjects: God, Life, Death, Karma, Reincarnation, Evolution and Self-Realization. The majority of our members and sympathizers are young. Following an interview with the Organizing Secretary in a newspaper devoted to spirituality, the same decided to provide the TS with a regular page in it which is devoted to a presentation of Theosophical teachings.

Mr Pierre-Magloire Kouahoh  
*Organizing Secretary*

## NORWAY

One of our new members offered to help with our new website. I have started translating the introduction of the website from the International Headquarters at Adyar in order for it to be used in our website. The content will be the President's 'On the Watch-Tower' notes published in *The Theosophist*, as well as articles and information about current events in the TS, locally and internationally. Every month a Newsletter is sent to the members with a translation into Norwegian of 'On the Watch-Tower', and

they express gratitude for receiving it and also interest in the articles. It also carries information about events such as the School of the Wisdom and the World Congress in Rome. We did not have any seminar this year but stayed in touch through our monthly Newsletter and by telephone. I am translating *Light on the Path* into Norwegian.

Mrs Agnes Gaasemyr  
*Organizing Secretary*

## SCOTLAND

Membership in Scotland has been declining, which is a matter of concern. There are ninety-six members spread across four Lodges: Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee and Inverness. With a view to improve the situation the TS in Scotland has created a website. This is a way of promoting the Lodges' programme and is to be further developed as a modern means of communication. The website currently attracts between 200 to 300 visitors per

month. A web page is being developed for every Lodge and a publishing facility is being provided. Though the older members are unfamiliar with computers there is enough expertise within the Society to achieve these ends.

Stuart Trotter  
*Organizing Secretary*

## SLOVENIA

There are sixty-seven members and four Lodges in Slovenia. Theosophical study, which is carried out in all the Lodges, included the following books: *Freedom from the Known* and *The Flame of Attention* by Krishnamurti, *The Creative Silence* by Rohit Mehta, *The Theosophic Life* by Annie Besant, *The Voice of the Silence* and *The Golden Stairs* by HPB and 'On the Watch-Tower' articles by Mrs Radha Burnier. There was a well attended gathering of all Lodges on 17 November (Foundation Day). There were three mini-schools in Celje on the following topics: *The Voice of the Silence*, *Avadhuta Gita* and 'Impressions from Adyar'. A winter school was held in

Soncek dedicated to Adyar Day. The Summer School in Kranjska Gora on the theme 'The Way of Wisdom (Mahatma Letters)' was conducted by Mrs Linda Oliveira, Vice-President. She also delivered lectures in the Lodges in Ljubljana and Celje. Mr Pedro Oliveira gave a well-attended public lecture in Celje on 'The Opportunity of this Life' and a presentation about the Adyar Estate in Koper. Three volumes of the Magazine *Teozofska misel* were published during the year.

Dr Dusan Zagar  
*Organizing Secretary*

## TOGO

The founding member of the Theosophical Regional Association in Togo, Mr Mawuetsoafia, passed away in September 2008. There are three

Branches in the region: Amour, Krishnamurti and John Coats. The latter was revived after a period of inactivity. Books studied during the year include

*Initiation, the Perfecting of Man* and *Esoteric Christianity* by Annie Besant and *No Other Path to Go* by Radha Burnier. Subjects studied included 'Karma or the Law of Retribution' and 'The Powers Latent in Man'. The Association acknowledged the support of the French

Section, which sends copies of the journal *Le Lotus Bleu*, and the International Headquarters at Adyar for sending *The Theosophist*.

Mr Kouma Dakey  
*Organizing Secretary*

## URUGUAY

New strategies of communication have been applied in order to attract the attention of a wider public than the one that normally comes to TS meetings. There were two Tibetan Gongs concerts in which Krishnamurti videos and a basic course on 'An Approach to Theosophy' were publicized. The TS was represented in the event 'The Woman and the World' which was held at the City Hall in Montevideo. During this event the series of talks by Prof. P. Krishna on 'Education

in the Twenty-first Century' were publicized. A group called 'Meditation in Silence' was formed at the Headquarters which seeks to diminish the pollution of our mental atmosphere. Lodge activities continue as usual. Seven members from Uruguay attended the Portuguese-Spanish Meeting in Brasilia, in July 2009.

Mr Nelson Corrales  
*Organizing Secretary*

## WALES

The attendance at meetings has continued to increase during 2009. The talks given in North Wales are now recorded and made available on CD for members who are not able to get to meetings. The Welsh Region has now a website. Emails are being sent to inform members and enquirers about upcoming talks, passing on newsletters and items of interest. Visiting speakers during the year included Mr Scot Olsen, from the United States, and Ms Maureen Atkinson, Mr Ted Capstick and Mr Colin Price from England. Talks were also given by several

members from Wales, including two young members who are students in Bangor University. Continuing with *The Secret Doctrine* study, Mr Eric McGough gave a series of talks. Members from Swansea in South Wales meet to study 'The Wisdom and the Way' Study Course on basic Theosophy. In August the Conwy Branch organized a 'Theosophical Awareness Day' at the Conwy Library. There were three talks by different speakers.

Ms Julie Cunningham  
*Organizing Secretary*

# PRESIDENTIAL AGENCIES

## ASIA, SOUTH-EAST

(No report)

## BOLIVIA

Books studied by Lodges during the year included *The Secret Doctrine*, *Mahatma Letters*, *Self-Culture*, *The Key to Theosophy*, *The Voice of the Silence*, *At the Feet of the Master* and *Isis Unveiled*. There are daily activities at the Headquarters in La Paz, including information to enquirers. Public talks were held in the city of Tarija where a study group meets regularly, with two members and five other participants. The TOS continues to be active in the country. A retreat was

held in San Benito, organized by Lodge Alaya de los Andes, on the themes 'Reflections on *Manas*', 'Consciousness and its Vehicles' and 'Evolution'. A national gathering was held in La Paz on the theme 'The Voice of the Silence' and had the participation of members from all Lodges in Bolivia.

Mrs Teresa W. de Nuñez  
*Presidential Representative*

## COSTA RICA

There are three Lodges in Costa Rica: Virya, Shakti, Dharma and one Study Group. Books studied during the year included *The Secret Doctrine*, *The Mahatma Letters*, *The Ancient Wisdom*, *The Voice of the Silence* plus an Introductory Course on Theosophy. Visiting speakers during the year included Mrs Nelda Samarel, from the United States, and Mrs Ali Ritsema, from Belgium. Twelve information leaflets were

published and distributed. The Presidential Representative gave a radio interview on the influence of the TS in Costa Rica, particularly in the area of education. Members and sympathizers collected donations towards food and clothing for the victims of hurricane 'Alma'.

Mrs Maria Orlich Soto  
*Presidential Agent*



## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

In November 2008 Mrs Maria Parisen, from the Krotona Institute in California, conducted the Fall School on the topic 'The Path of the Heart: A Retreat in the Tradition of Ancient Wisdom'. In June, Mr Isaac Jauli, from Spain, gave a series of lectures during the Summer School in Santo Domingo. The subjects were 'Beyond Physical Death' and 'A Vision of Human Development Based on the Work of Plutarch'. He also held a workshop on 'Buddhist Teachings in the

Light of HPB's Work'. Armonia Study Group met regularly and studied *Theosophy Explained* by P. Pavri. Atma Lodge focused on the study of *From Inner to Outer Transformation: Lectures on The Voice of the Silence* by Joy Mills and *Theosophy* by John Algeo. Nueva Lodge began the study of *A Study on Consciousness* by Annie Besant.

Mrs Magaly Polanco  
Presidential Representative

## HUNGARY

The General Meeting was held on 29 November 2008. In April 2009 a new Lodge – Forrás – was founded. TS work continued in the three Lodges, one working in the country and the other two in Budapest. Keleti Lodge organized a monthly public lecture with an attendance of twenty-five to fifty participants. It also organized monthly open meetings. A translation of *The Causal Body* by A.E. Powell and a revised edition of Annie Besant's *The Ancient Wisdom* were published during the year. Forrás Lodge chose as the book for study during the

year *At the Feet of Master*. Another book being studied on a regular basis is *Talks on the Path of Occultism*. Some Lodge members took part in a programme for eliminating homelessness. Siddhartha Lodge held discussions based on Annie Besant's *In the Outer Court*. It also encouraged a peace meditation among its members and organized a three-day study camp in August 2009.

Mr Thomas Martinovich  
Presidential Representative

## PAKISTAN

(No report)



## PERU

The two Lodges in Peru, HPB and Verdad, which together have a membership of twenty-eight people, held regular public talks. Subjects included 'The Problem of Evil', 'The Wisdom of the *Bhagavadgītā*', 'Dreams', among others. Visitors during the year included Miss Carmen César Galante, from Spain,

and Mrs Isis Resende, from Brazil. Books studied during the year included *The Inner Life* by C. W. Leadbeater and *The Astral Body* by A. E. Powell

Mr Julio Gerardo Pomar  
*Presidential Representative*

## PUERTO RICO

There are three Lodges and two Study Groups in Puerto Rico. Public meetings are held every Sunday morning. Lodges meet once a week and the books studied included *God, Man and the Universe* by I. K. Taimni, *At the Feet of the Master*, *Comparative Religions* by Dr Alfonso, *Theosophy Explained* by P. Pavri. Study

Groups focused on *The Secret Doctrine* by HPB and *The Causal Body and the Ego* by A. E. In June 2009, Mr Isaac Jauli delivered a series of talks on 'Beyond Death' as well as a one-day workshop.

Dr Eladio Polanco  
*Presidential Representative*

## SRI LANKA

We conduct monthly meetings for members as well as for the public in which guest speakers deliver talks on spiritual matters. We publish monthly service letters. *The Sri Lankan Theosophist* was published in April 2009. Our Library and sales outlet for Theosophical publications are kept open at the Headquarters in Colombo. Hamsa and Uva Lodges, in Badulla, have published their own

periodical, *Sanathana Dhamma*. These Lodges conducted monthly meetings and discussions on Dhamma and meditation. Dr C. V. Agarwal's book *Buddhist and Theosophical Movements* has been translated into Sinhalese.

Mr S. M. Jayathilake  
*Presidential Representative*

## SWITZERLAND

There are thirty-nine members in Switzerland at present. Books studied during the year include *Light on the Path*,

*Self-Culture* by I. K. Taimni and *A World in Crisis* by J. Krishnamurti. The Branch 'Exploration and Transformation'

conducted a comparative study of Krishnamurti and Theosophical texts. Other themes studied include 'Living in a New Time', 'The Practical Path in Spirituality and Realization', 'Esoteric Insights in the New Millennium' and 'In Search of Our Own Wisdom'. Two seminars were held during the year; the first was held on 4-5 April 2009 at Tessin, Ascona, in collaboration with the Italian Section, on the theme 'Theosophy

Applied to our Daily Life'. The second was held on 12-13 September 2009 in Geneva on the theme 'Theosophy Facing Religions'. Both seminars were conducted by Miss Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu. Although the number of members is small they do an excellent work for Theosophy in a fraternal atmosphere.

Mme Eliane Gaillard  
*Presidential Representative*

## VENEZUELA

One of our members attended the seminar of the Caribbean Basin which was held in Honduras in May 2009. Blavatsky Lodge has done, upon request, service to the community in its area, including planting trees, mediating conflicts between

neighbours, etc. Brotherhood Lodge carried on a regular study of the *Bhagavadgitā*.

Mrs Nelly Nouell  
*Coordinator*

## LODGES ATTACHED TO ADYAR

### LOTUS LODGE (ZAGREB, CROATIA)

Members of the Lodge live in cities which are very far apart. Because of the difficulties created by distance they have organized themselves into four study groups: Zagreb, Krizevci, Opatija and Osijek. Meetings have been held in Zagreb, Krizevci and Karlovac in which many Lodge members participated.

The largest study group, located in Zagreb, held two monthly meetings one for candidates for membership and one for members only. There is also a public lecture every Tuesday on subjects such

as Theosophy and the TS, Practical Theosophy, and the Soul and its Aspirations. Several books were also studied, including *The Solar System* by A. E. Powell. The Lodge President completed the translation of *Human Regeneration* by Radha Burnier. The journal *Theosophy* has been published quarterly during the year.

Mrs Marija Durda Bozic  
President

### EL SOL (GUAYAQUIL, ECUADOR)

(No report)

### COVENANT LODGE (TEL AVIV, ISRAEL)

Regular members' meetings were held during the year three times a month. Subjects studied included 'Inner Faith', 'Balance and Harmony', 'Courage and the Path', 'Discrimination' (*Viveka*), 'Dharma', among others. The study materials were taken from various Theosophical sources. There are two public meetings each month, one in a rented hall and the other at the TS centre. Some of the subjects presented include 'Theosophical Teachings in the Poetry of Khalil Gibran', 'The Art

of Balance in the Spiritual Life', 'You are the World – the Spiritual Message of Krishnamurti', among others. Other meetings included presentations based on *The Secret Doctrine*.

Members continued the practice of outings to places of nature for a day or weekend of study and meditation. Seminars were also organized both for TS members and others who had participated in earlier courses. Subjects included, among others, 'Mystical and Religious

## LODGES ATTACHED TO ADYAR

Experiences', 'The Foundation of the Theosophical Movement', 'Learn to Look Intelligently into the Hearts of Men' and 'Truth and Illusion in the Spiritual Life'. Two one-day Conventions, one held in October 2008 and the other in April 2009, attracted 220 and 156 participants,

respectively. Introductory course on Theosophy were also held. There are seventy-nine active TS members in Israel.

Mr Abraham Oron  
President

### NIPPON LODGE (TOKYO, JAPAN)

The Lodge held monthly study meetings throughout the year with an average attendance of twelve people. Recent studies were based on the Japanese translation of H.P. Blavatsky's *Isis Unveiled*, *The Secret Doctrine*, *Nightmare Tales* and on the book *The Circle of Wisdom* compiled by Winifred A. Parley. The members also investigated details of HPB's vast research literature. The subjects of the meetings included the seven cosmic principles, HPB's Theosophical synthesis of Indian philosophy, Platonic philosophy, Christian religion, Jewish

religion, Egyptian religion, as well as her background of psychic phenomena and the deeper psychological meanings of occultism and religion. The Lodge's bimonthly magazine, *The Japanese Theosophist*, contained Japanese translations of selected passages of Annie Besant's *Thought Power*, C. W. Leadbeater's *The Hidden Life in Freemasonry* and HPB's *The Secret Doctrine* and *Theosophical Glossary*.

Mr Taichi Yamaguchi  
Secretary

### SELANGOR LODGE (KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA)

During the year under review regular reading sessions were held, including a number on the *Bhagavadgitā*. Mr Vicente Hao Chin, Jr, National President of TS in the Philippines, conducted a three-day seminar on 'The Process of Self-Transformation' in February 2009. The

Lodge also organized talks featuring several other speakers. A study course on *The Key to Theosophy* was held in September 2009.

Ms Ng Ay Na  
President

### SINGAPORE LODGE

We now have 344 members. Some of the new members choose not to renew their membership as they find that they

could not relate to the ideals of the Theosophical Society. However, it is encouraging to see the growing number



of earnest students amongst the new members. The Executive Committee continued to focus on 'A Course in Theosophy' as the principal means to attract new members, which was much appreciated. Meditation courses for enquirers, which are now combined with the introductory Course on Theosophy, continue to be popular and have attracted many people to the Society.

One of the most significant activities initiated this year is the 'Mahatma Letters Study Class', for members only, and facilitated by the Lodge President. The class is studying every letter contained in The Mahatma Letters to A. P. Sinnett, including the Appendices. More than forty students attend this class every week which is expected to last for a year. Past experience has shown that members who completed the study class tend to stay in the Society and to become devoted workers of the Singapore Lodge. The Lodge also provides a varied and interesting public programme. Talk titles

during the year included 'Understanding Karma', 'The Nature of Psychic Abilities', 'The Purpose of the Theosophical Society', 'Introduction to Abhidhamma', among others. Two books were also studied, *Self-Culture — in the Light of the Ancient Wisdom* and *The Emblem of the Theosophical Society*. Mr Hrishikesh Sharan, from India, and Miss Dianne Kynaston, from Australia, visited the Lodge and each gave a talk.

The highlight of the year was the weekend Retreat at Turi Beach Resort on the Indonesian island of Batam in June. Forty-four people attended it. The theme was 'Self-Realization and Development' and was explored through workshops. The two days at the retreat, in which there was a very high degree of interaction, brought the group of Lodge members closer. It was felt that the workshops were useful in making us re-examine ourselves.

Mr Chong Sanne  
President

### ANKH LODGE (KIEV, UKRAINE)

There were four regular meetings every month, two of which were open to the public. The study of *The Secret Doctrine* was undertaken during the year. In November there was a Theosophical conference in Kiev on *Beauty as Expression of the Soul* which was attended by sixty participants from nine cities. White Lotus Day was observed on 6 May when a Museum Centre of HPB

and her Family was opened. A group of young students, guided by some Lodge members, started the study of *Fundamentals of Theosophical Knowledge*.

Mrs S. Gavrylenko  
President



### ALETHELA LODGE (YALTA, UKRAINE)

Meetings of the Lodge were held weekly when *The Secret Doctrine* and other Theosophical books were studied. Once a month the Lodge held a discussion meeting for members only. The members of the Lodge took part in the

seminar 'Mahatmas and the Theosophical Society' held in September.

Ms Nadezhda I. Kovyzenko  
*President*

### PEARL NECKLACE LODGE (ODESSA, UKRAINE)

The Lodge held regular weekly meetings. Twice a week there were general meetings which interested persons could also attend. The Lodge also published five issues of the newsletter *The Way of Knowledge* which contained

Theosophical articles. Theosophical books are also distributed in many cities of Ukraine.

Ms V. Perevalov  
*President*

### H. P. BLAVATSKY LODGE (DNIPROPETROVSK, UKRAINE)

The Lodge held regular weekly meetings in which *The Secret Doctrine* and *The Mahatma Letters* were studied. Members participated in the conference on 'True Guidance Comes from Within'. On 12 August the members held a

meeting in the house of HPB's family. The members are also collecting funds for the repair of the house.

Ms T. Golovchenko  
*President*



**DIRECTORY  
AND  
MINUTES  
OF THE MEETING OF THE  
GENERAL COUNCIL**

INTERNATIONAL BUREAU OF  
STATISTICS

# INTERNATIONAL DIRECTORY

Date	Section	General Secretary	Address	Magazine	Email address
1947	Africa, East and Central	... Mr Navin B. Shah	... PO Box 14804, 00800-Westlands, Nairobi, Kenya	... <i>The Theosophical Light</i>	navinmeera@hotmail.com
1909	Africa, South	... Mr Tom Davis	... 22 Buffels Road, Rietondale, Pretoria, 0084	... <i>The South African Theosophist</i>	thosdavis@icon.co.za
1956	Africa, West	... Mr P. B. Kwakyi	... PO Box 720, Accra, Ghana	... <i>The West African Theosophist</i>	tswafrica@gmail.com
1929	America, Central *	... Mrs Aura Elena de Martinez	... Calle Julio Mejia Pol. E-7, Colonia Universitaria Norte, San Salvador, El Salvador	...	bemapo03@hotmail.com fcormayorga@hotmail.com
1920	Argentina	... Mrs Silvia Liliana Pastore	... Casilla de Correo 166, 5600 San Rafael, Provincia de Mendoza	... <i>Teosofia en Argentina</i>	stargentina@sociedad-teosofica.com.ar
1990	Asia, Southeast †	...	... The Theosophical Society Adyar, Chennai 600 020, India	...	theosoc@dataone.in
1895	Australia	... Dr Dara Tatray	... 4th fl., 484 Kent St., Sydney, NSW 2000	... <i>Theosophy in Australia</i>	tshq@austheos.org.au
1912	Austria *	... Mr Herbert Fuchs	... Joseph Gaubweg 7, A - 8010 Graz	... <i>Teosofie Adyar</i>	herbert.f.fuchs@gmail.com
1911	Belgium	... Mr Jan Jelle Keppler	... 51 rue du Commerce, Handelsstraat 51, B 1000 Brussels	... <i>Le Lotus Bleu</i>	jan.keppeler@telenet.be
1965	Bolivia †	... Mrs Teresa W. de Nuñez	... Casilla de Correo 3911, Cochabamba	...	saidita_2945@hotmail.com
1920	Brazil	... Mr Marcos L. B. de Resende	... Sociedade Teosofica no Brazil, SGAS Quadra 603, N. 20, CEP 70200-630 Brasilia (DF)	... <i>Sophia</i>	tsbrazil@sociedadeteosofica.org.br
1924	Canada *	... Mr Medardo Martinez Cruz	... 3162 Rue de la Bastille Boisbriand QC., J7H 1K7	... <i>The Light Bearer</i>	MMartinez@manhattaninc.com
1920	Chile *	... Miss Ana Gloria Bustos	... Casilla 3603, Santiago 21	... <i>Revista Teosofica Chilena</i>	sociedad.teosofica@gmail.com
1937	Colombia †	... Mrs Julia Ballesteros	... Carrera. 6, No. 56-27 Apto. 201, Bogotá-2	... <i>Selección Teosofica</i>	julitaballesteros@gmail.com
1997	Costa Rica †	... Ms Maria Orlich	... Apartado 8-6710-1000, San José	...	orlichsm@yahoo.com
2007	Croatia ▲	... Mrs Marija Durda Bosic	... Stj. Radica 1/2, HR - 48260 Krizevci	...	marija.bozic@kc.t-com.hr
1905	Cuba	... Mr Gaspar Torres	... Apartado de Correos 6365, La Habana 10600	...	teocuba.sociedad@gmail.com
1987	Dominican Rep. †	... Mrs Magaly Polanco	... 1652 Sta. Agueda, C7 Les Chalets Court Apto. 23, San Juan, PR 00926, USA	...	polanc@prtc.net
1888	England	... Mr Eric McGough	... 50 Gloucester Place, London W1U 8EA	... <i>Insight</i>	office@theosoc.org.uk
1907	Finland	... Ms Marja Artamaa	... Teosofinen Seura, Vironkatu 7 C 2, Fin 00170, Helsinki	... <i>Teosofi</i>	teosofinen.seura@netti.fi
1899	France	... Ms Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu	... 4 Square Rapp, 75007 Paris	... <i>Le Lotus Bleu</i>	editionsadyar@wanadoo.fr
1902	Germany	... Mrs Manuela Kaulich	... Hauptstr. 39, 93138 Lappersdorf	... <i>Adyar</i>	theosophie-adyar@gmx.de
1928	Greece	... Mr Theodoros Katsifis	... 25 Voukourestiou St., 106 71-Athens	... <i>Ilisos</i>	info@theosophicalsociety.gr
1907	Hungary †	... Mr Thomas Martinovich	... Hunyadi Janos ut 17. II. 8, H-1011 Budapest	... <i>Teozofia</i>	tshtau7@hu.inter.net
1921	Iceland	... Mr Halldór Haraldsson	... PO Box 1257 Ingolfstraeti 22, 121 Reykjavik	... <i>Gangleri</i>	ts@gudspeki.felagid.is
1891	India	... Mr S. Sundaram	... The Theosophical Society, Varanasi 221 010	... <i>The Indian Theosophist</i>	theosophy_vns@yahoo.com
1912	Indonesia	... Mr Herry Ispornomo	... Jalan Anggrek Nelimurni A-104, Jakarta 11410, Timur	... <i>Teosofi</i>	teosofi.indonesia@gmail.com
1919	Ireland *	... Mrs Marie Harkness	... 97 Mountsandel Road, Coleraine, Co. Londonderry, UK BT52 1TA	... <i>Insight</i>	marieharkness@yahoo.co.uk

1954	Israel ▲	... Mr Abraham Oron	... PO Box 4014, Ramat-Gan, Israel 52140	... Or	mail@theosophia.co.il
1902	Italy	... Mr Antonio Girardi	... Viale Quintino Sella, 83/E, 36100 Vicenza	... <i>Rivista Italiana di Teosofia</i>	sti@teosofica.org
1997	Ivory Coast *	... Mr Pierre-Magloire Kouahoh	... Yopougon, 23 Rue Princesse B. P. 3924, Abidjan 23	... <i>Sophia</i>	pm_kouahoh@hotmail.com
1971	Japan ▲	... Mr Naotsugu Takahashi	... 4-12-11 Nakamachi, Nishi Tokyoshi Tokyo 202 0013		tsjp@hte.highway.ne.jp
1919	Mexico	... Mrs Lissette Arroyo Jiménez	... Ignacio Mariscal 126, Col. Tabacalera Mexicana, Mexico, D.F. 06030		sociedadteosofica@prodigy.net.mx
1897	Netherlands, The	... Ms Els Rijnker	... Tolstraat 154, 1074 VM Amsterdam	... <i>Theosophia</i>	info@theosofie.nl
1896	New Zealand	... Mr Warwick Keys	... 17, Belvedere Street, Epsom, Auckland 1051	... <i>TheoSophia</i>	hq@theosophy.org.nz
1913	Norway *	... Mrs Agnes Gaasemyr	... Stadionvei 9, N - 5162 Laksevaag		post@teosofisksamfunn.no
1924	Peru †	... Mr Julio Gerardo Pomar	... Jr. Republica de Portugal 152, Breña, Lima 5	... <i>Búsqueda</i>	teosoficaparu@hotmail.com
1933	Philippines, The	... Mr Vicente Haó Chin, Jr.	... Corner P. Florentino and Iba Streets, Quezon City, Manila	... <i>The Philippine Theosophist</i>	philtheos@gmail.com
1921	Portugal	... Mr Carlos Guerra	... Rua Passos Manoel no. 20 cave 1150 - 260 Lisboa	... <i>Osiris</i>	geral@sociedadeteosoficadeportugal.pt
1925	Puerto Rico †	... Dr Eladio Polanco	... 1652 Sta. Agueda, C7 Les Chalets Court Aptdo. 23, San Juan, PR 00926, USA	... <i>Heraldo Teosófico</i>	polancoeladio@yahoo.com
1910	Scotland *	... Mr Stuart Trotter	... 28 Great King Street, Edinburgh, EH3 6QH	... <i>Circles</i>	stuarttrotter@hotmail.com
1889	Singapore ▲	... Mr Chong Sanne	... 540 Sims Avenue, No 03-04 Sims Avenue Centre, Singapore 387603	... <i>Newsletter</i>	sanne@singaporelodge.org
1992	Slovenia *	... Dr Dušan Žagar	... Kunaverjeva 1 SLO-1000 Ljubljana	... <i>Teozofska Misel</i>	zagardusan@gmail.com
1921	Spain	... Mrs Clarisa Elósegui	... Arenys de Mar, n.14, Iro - Ira E - 08225 Terrassa - Barcelona	... <i>Sophia</i>	clarisaelo@gmail.com
1926	Sri Lanka †	... Mr S. M. Jayatilleke	... 20/13, Race Course Road, Badulla (BD) 90000	... <i>The Sri Lanka Theosophist</i>	smjbadulla@gmail.com
1895	Sweden	... Mr Pertti Spets	... Henriksdalsringen 23, SE - 131 32 Nacka	... <i>Tidlös Visdom</i>	teosofiska.samfundet.adyar@telia.com
1910	Switzerland †	... Mrs Eliane Gaillard	... 17 Chemin de la Côte, CH -1282 Dardagny, Genève	... <i>The Lotus</i>	egaillard@bluewin.ch
1997	Togo *	... Mr Kouma Dahey	... S.O., A.R.T.T., BP 76, Adeta		ankh@voliacable.com
2007	Ukraine ▲	... Mrs Svitlana Gavrylenko	... Office 3, 7-and Zhylianska St., Kiev 01033		olcott@theosmail.net
1886	USA	... Mrs Betty Bland	... PO Box 270, Wheaton, IL 60187-0270	... <i>The Quest</i>	samadhi@internet.com.uy
1925	Uruguay *	... Mr Nelson Corrales	... Javier Barrios Amorin 1085, Casilla de Correos 1553, Montevideo		jecunningham@yahoo.co.uk
1922	Wales *	... Ms Julie Cunningham	... Tan y fron, Red Wharf Bay, Penrthraeth Anglesey, Gwynedd LL75 8HJ UK	... <i>Insight</i>	

Date refers to the date of formation

\* Regional Association

† Presidential Agency

▲ Lodge attached to Adyar

The Council of the European Federation of National Societies: *Chairman:* Miss Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu, 67 Rue des Pommiers, F-45000 Orleans, France. Email: kimdieu\_ts@magic.fr  
 Inter-American Theosophical Federation: *President:* Mrs Terezinha Kind, SHIS QI 28 Conjunto 1, casa 29 - Lago Sul, Brasília DFF - 71.670-210, Brazil. Email: t.kind@terra.com.br  
 Indo-Pacific Theosophical Federation: *President:* Mr John Vorstermans, 60B Riro Street, Point Chevalier, Auckland 1022, New Zealand. Email: john@theosophy.org.nz  
 Pan-African Theosophical Federation: *Chairman:* Mr Kiran H. Shah, 55A Third Parklands Avenue, PO Box 40149, Nairobi 00100, Kenya. Email: kirankh33@gmail.com



## ADDITIONAL MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

Mr D. K. Govindaraj, The Theosophical Society, Adyar, Chennai 600 020, India (for 2007, 2008 and 2009)

Miss Trần-Thi-Kim-Diêu, 67 Rue des Pommiers, F-45000 Orléans, France (for 2008, 2009 and 2010)

Miss Joy Mills, 22 Krotona Hill, Ojai, CA 93023, USA (for 2008, 2009 and 2010)

Mr Surendra Narayan, F-225A Lane W5-B Sainik Farms, New Delhi 110 062, India (for 2008, 2009 and 2010)

Mrs Terezinha Franca Kind, SHIS QI 28 Conjunto 1, Casa 29 - Lago Sul, Brasilia DFF - 71.670-210, Brazil (for 2008, 2009 and 2010)

Mrs Helen Jamieson, The Theosophical Society, Adyar, Chennai 600 020, India (for 2009, 2010 and 2011)

Mr Ricardo Lindemann, SQS 403 Bloco F Ap. 204, 70.237-060 Brasilia DF Brazil (for 2009, 2010 and 2011)

Mr H. K. Sharan, 180 Shantipally, E. M. Bypass, Rajdanga Main Rd, Kolkata, India (for 2009, 2010 and 2011)

Mr Sriram Panchu, 16 Temple Glade Apt, 67 Beach Rd, Kalakshetra Colony, Chennai, India (for 2009, 2010 and 2011)

MINUTES

of the Meeting of the General Council of the Theosophical Society  
held on Saturday, 25 December 2009, at Adyar

PRESENT

Mrs Radha Burnier	<i>President (in the chair) and proxy for Joy Mills, Ricardo Lindemann, East Africa and Mexico</i>
Mrs Linda Oliveira	<i>Vice-President</i>
Miss Keshwar Dastur	<i>Treasurer and proxy for Mr Surendra Narayan</i>
Mrs Kusum Satapathy	<i>Secretary</i>
Mrs Dara Tattray	<i>General Secretary, Australia and proxy for Greece and New Zealand</i>
Mr Marcos L. B. Resende	<i>General Secretary, Brazil, and proxy for Argentina</i>
Mr Jan Jelle Keppeler	<i>General Secretary, Belgium</i>
Mr S. Sundaram	<i>General Secretary, India</i>
Mr Antonio Girardi	<i>General Secretary, Italy</i>
Mrs Helen Jamieson	<i>Additional Member</i>
Mr D. K. Govindaraj	<i>Additional Member</i>
Mr Sriram Panchu	<i>Additional Member</i>

*Present as Observers by invitation:*

Dr Dusan Zagar	<i>Organizing Secretary, Slovenia</i>
Mrs Agnes Gasemyr	<i>Organizing Secretary, Norway</i>
Mr Colin Price	<i>England</i>
Mr Aroon Purushottam	<i>New Zealand</i>
Mr Govert van der Wal	<i>Netherlands</i>
Maria Mengelt	<i>Mexico</i>
Ms Patrizia Calvi	<i>Italy</i>

The list of proxies was read out as above. The President welcomed those present.

**1. Confirmation of Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held at Adyar on 25 December 2008 having been circulated, were taken as read and signed.

**2. Matters arising out of the Minutes**

There were no matters arising.

**3. Confirmation of voting**

Election of Mr D. K. Govindaraj as Additional Member of the General Council.

The President had nominated Mr D. K. Govindaraj for election under Rule 2(b) of the Rules and Regulations as Additional Member of the General Council for the years 2010, 2011 and 2012.

The result of the voting was as follows:

	<i>For:</i>	<i>Against:</i>	<i>Abstained:</i>
Mr D. K. Govindaraj	22	0	2

Mr D. K. Govindaraj was declared elected as Additional Member of the General Council for the years 2010, 2011 and 2012.

#### 4. Report on the Non-English Publications Fund

The Secretary reported that the value of the Fund increased by \$ 16,529 due to Bank Interest and increases in the value of USB Bonds. There was no expenditure during this year and the value of the Fund now stands at \$ 110,159.

#### 5. Report on the International Funds

The Secretary presented a report on the International Funds held in the USA, Australia and New Zealand, for the year ended 30 September 2009. There was a loss in realized Capital Gains of \$ 112,557 in the American ABC Fund and \$ 92,000 was transferred to it from the Short Term Investments. AU\$ 25,000 was donated to the Australian Adyar Security Fund by the Australian Section.

Disbursements from the Fund included US\$ 3000 to TOS International, and US\$ 2,818 for travel expenses.

#### 6. Report by the President on Headquarters

Due to the demand for perfumes, the sandalwood trees are still attracting thieves.

There is a shortage of workers. Many of the workers are attracted to jobs outside the campus by the higher salaries being paid, with which Adyar cannot compete. Institutions like ours are having to outsource work.

The old labour Court case was started in 1982 by a few disgruntled workers. It is still pending a final decision by the courts. Fortunately, the lawyers support the TS and only charge expenses. Generally there is appreciation of the Society's work, particularly in Chennai.

#### 7. Appointment of the Executive Committee for 2009

The following Executive Committee members were appointed for 2010:

Mrs Radha Burnier	President (ex-officio)
Mrs Linda Oliveira	Vice-President (ex-officio)
Miss Keshwar Dastur	Treasurer (ex-officio)
Mrs Kusum Satapathy	Secretary (ex-officio)
Mr D. K. Govindaraj	General Council Member
Mr Surendra Narayan	General Council Member
Mr H. K. Sharan	General Council Member
Mr Sriram Panchu	General Council Member
Mr S. Harihara Raghavan	Member

**8. Treasurer's Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2009**

The Treasurer's Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2009, which had been previously circulated, were considered and approved. It was suggested that expenditure for labour and materials may be combined under one head and shown in future reports.

**9. The Budget for the year ending 31 March 2011**

The Budget for the year ending 31 March 2011, which had been previously circulated, was considered and approved.

**10. Appointment of Auditors for the year ending 31 March 2010**

M/s Shrihari & Co, who were the Auditors for 2008 -2009 were again appointed as Auditors of the Theosophical Society for the year ending 31 March 2010 on the same terms.

**11. Need for changes in the Society's Rules and Regulations was discussed**

It was noted that changes in the Society's Rules and Regulations may only be made by the General Council on their own motion or on the motion of the Executive Committee under International Rule 49. However, the changes proposed individually by the General Secretary of the American Section were discussed at length and in the absence of the sponsor of the points. It was decided that the Executive Committee should make suggestions on any changes to the Rules & Regulations which seem necessary, for consideration by the General Council.

**12. Discussion on work around the world**

The General Secretary of Italy, Mr Antonio Girardi said that as soon as the programme for the World Congress in 2010 has been finalized, he will circulate a leaflet for general information; the programme details will also be made available on the internet.

It was reported that the Greek Section expressed an interest in hosting the following World Congress.

The International Secretary of the TOS had requested an allocation of \$5000 this year instead of \$3000 allocated in earlier years for TOS work. The desirability of the TOS accounting for the usage of the donated funds was emphasized. The increase of \$2000 was approved but it was decided that the TOS should consider raising its own funds in future.

The Belgian Section will be celebrating its centenary on 7 June 2010 and a personal invitation was extended to all members.

The Brazilian Section hosted a meeting in Brazil of Spanish and Portuguese speaking members last July where 17 countries were represented. The meeting was attended by 220 members.

**12.1** Two suggestions made by the General Secretary of the Australian Section were discussed. It was found that the issues raised therein needed elaboration; the General Secretary of the Australian Section may prepare and circulate background papers on the proposals so that they can be taken up for discussion in the next General Council meeting.

**13. Any Other Business**

1. The Vice-President intimated that the new website of the Theosophical Society would be

launched as soon as possible, with upgraded facilities including provision for audio & video recordings.

2. A question was raised about the possibility of changing the regular date of the General Council meeting on Christmas Day, which is important to many Westerners. It was agreed that such a matter would need wider discussion within the General Council and noted that it would also have implications for the dates on which the Convention is held, but the matter will be considered. \*



